

## Discussion Questions: Aaron's Big Mistake

1. Share a time when you made a mistake. What did you do in the aftermath of that mistake?
2. Pastor Mark tells the story of Aaron and the golden calf. Read Exodus 32:1-4, 19-24. Why do you think Aaron decided to take action and ask the people to give him gold jewelry?
3. When confronted with his behavior by his brother, Moses, Aaron says, "I just threw the gold into the fire and this calf came out." Why do you think Aaron described the situation in this way?
4. Why is it difficult for human beings to acknowledge our poor decisions and mistakes?
5. Pastor Mark suggests that Aaron's mistake began when he listened to the wrong voices. He listened to the voice of the critics and the complainers. What is the difference between dealing with a genuine concern and simply giving in to those who complain and grumble?
6. This story reminds us to pay attention to the voices we listen to and allow to influence our thinking and our choices. Name some potentially destructive voices in our current culture. Name some good and positive voices in our current culture.
7. Pastor Mark suggests that one way to learn to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit is to spend regular time in Bible reading, prayer, and Christian fellowship. How do these spiritual disciplines help us hear and discern the voice of our Lord in the midst of a noisy and confusing world?
8. Not only are we influenced by the voice of others, we have the opportunity to influence others by what we say. Share a time when someone positively encouraged you to do the right thing. How was their voice a source of strength and support for you?
9. What are some ways you can be more intentional about being a positive voice and a godly influence in the lives of people around you?
10. Pastor Mark tells the story of Ulysses S. Grant and his Chief of Staff, John Rawlins. Do you have a John Rawlins in your life? Are you a John Rawlins in the life of anyone?
11. How can the Church be a helpful source of positive encouragement in a negative and critical world?