



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: *Dennis & Diane Gordon*

THROUGH THE WILDERNESS *Lesson 4*

GOOD WAY OR GOD'S WAY?

Exodus 18; Numbers 11:10-16



GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

I WILL FIND THE RIGHT WAY BY MAKING THE CHOICE:
TO OBEY GOD'S WORD AND FOLLOW HIS VOICE

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK: *Repeat 2x with Congregation*

Galatians 6:7&9

*" Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap... ⁹ And **let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**"*

INTRODUCTION: The Israelites broke down the hedge of protection God placed around them by complaining. Moses said that when they complained, they were not complaining against each other, but they were complaining against God! We must not come down to Satan's level to battle in emotions but remember where we are seated with Christ so we can praise God, trusting Him in all thing; then we can lift up the arms of our brethren, and watch our God fight our battles! This week we study how Moses learned that going with the most popular opinion of even Godly men, is not the right way to find the will of God. We are to trust only in God, and make decisions only when we hear from Him.

2. CHILDREN'S STORY Brandon's Dilemma



Why am I always the only one to put all the stuff away?" complained Brandon as he got into the car. He pouted all the way home after baseball practice and went to his room. At the dinner table he hardly said a word and asked to be excused before dessert. His mother could see something was really wrong and asked, "Brandon, why are you so unhappy?" "Mom, you tell me to live my life for God, but it doesn't seem to make any difference if I do what's right or not! I put away all the ball equipment, and help the coach, but the coach always picks Bob and Joe for the best spots on the team, and they never help! And I'm kind to everyone, and Bob and Joe are mean, but everybody always wants to be Bob and Joe's friend, not mine, I just don't get it?" Brandon's mother was sad because she knew how hard he tried and said, "Go get your Bible and let's see if God has something to say that can help." So Brandon went to get his Bible. "OK, find [Galatians 6:7&9](#), and read it to me." Brandon read, "*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.* ⁹ And [let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.](#)"

Bob wondered out loud, "Does that mean Bob and Joe are going to get paid back for being mean?" Mother replied, "Yes Brandon, it means that they can't keep acting the way they are and get away with it. All their deeds will catch up with them. And all your good deeds will catch up with you, so God says don't give up because His blessings will come to you just like He promised!"

The next day Brandon couldn't wait to get home, "Mom, you'll never guess what happened! Bob and Joe kept acting so mean at school the teacher saw, so she talked to their parents. They have to sit on the bench for the rest of the baseball season and Coach asked me to play catcher, and I did a good job Mom! I'm glad you made me read God's word, it helped me to see better and to trust Him, and just keep on acting like Jesus wants me too, thanks, Mom!"

3. JETHRO BRINGS MOSES' FAMILY TO THE MOUNTAIN FOR A VISIT.



Exodus 18:1-7 “When Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses’ father in law, heard of all that God had done for Moses, and for Israel his people, and that the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt; ² then Jethro, Moses’ father in law, took Zipporah, Moses’ wife, after he had sent her back, ³ and her

two sons; of which the name of the one was Gershom; for he said, I have been an alien in a strange land: ⁴ and the name of the other was Eliezer; for the God of my father, said he, was mine help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh: ⁵ and Jethro, Moses’ father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God: ⁶ and he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her. ⁷ And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent.”

God had brought Moses and the Israelites out of the land of Egypt, across the Red Sea, and back near his home in Midian, to the mountain of God. It had been about a year since Moses had believed God and trusted Him to show Moses how to deliver the Israelites from slavery, and had sent his family back home to the safety of their home in Midian. Moses had put God’s plan first before his own desires, trusting Him to know what was best, and now God brought his family back to him again. Moses hurried out to meet his family, and kissed them. There was Jethro and Zipporah his wife, and his sons, Gershom and Eliezer!

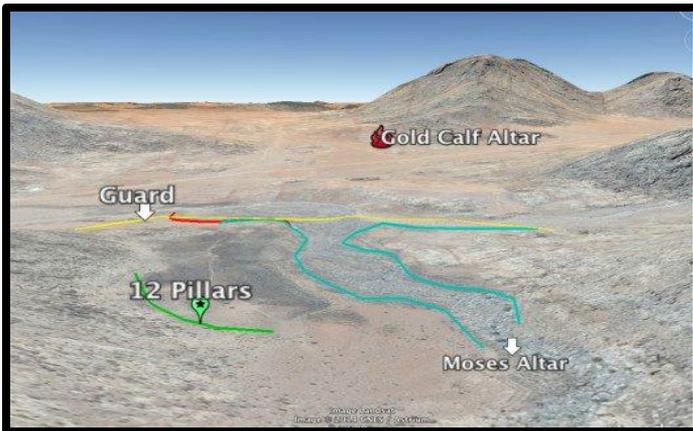
When you choose to follow God’s leading in your life, and choose to trust Him for your future, you must learn to die to yourself. But no matter what you may have to give up for a while, you can always be sure that Jesus loves you, and He has a wonderful plan!

4. WHERE IS THE MOUNTAIN OF GOD?



The location of the Mountain of God, first called Horeb, and later called Mount Sinai, is well documented by Biblical landmarks, physical evidence, paintings, artifacts, and verbal history of the local people that has been passed down through generations!

Mr. Wyatt is the original modern-day discoverer of the real Mount Sinai. Others followed suit (including Jim and Penny Caldwell), not even knowing Mr. Wyatt, but led by God on their own journey to the mountain, all the adventurers have risked their lives to give the evidence that follows... Looking down from mountain side at the base Mt Sinai's camp. Teal lines mark stone fences, Red line marks wells, yellow line marks present day guarding fence. Photos & Quotes: wyattmuseum.com arkdiscovery.com



A = Saudi Guard House
C = Remains of 12 Pillars
E = Red Lines mark Wells

B = Cow Altar with Petroglyphs
D = Large Altar at the foot of Mt. Sinai
F = Aqua Lines mark Stone Fences

5. YOU WILL FIND YOUR LIFE BY DYING TO SELF.

John 12:24-2 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”²⁵ *He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.”*

What can we learn from Moses about God’s purpose for our own lives? Moses laid aside his own rights when he left behind the future throne of Egypt as the Pharaoh’s son, then 40 years later, he risked his life again to obey God’s call, leaving behind the simple family life he enjoyed in Midian. We learn from Moses, that if we die to our self, God has an amazing plan for our future.

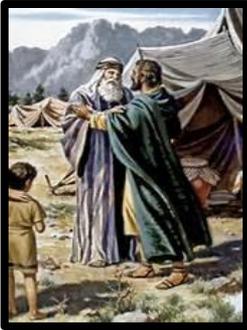
Luke 17:32-33 “Remember Lot’s wife.”³³ Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.”



The life story of Maria Von Trapp who lived 1905-1987, was the true story behind a movie filmed in 1965 named, ‘The Sound of Music’. In 1926, Maria was a novice nun, living in a convent in Vienna, Austria. Maria had a suffered a difficult upbringing. She was terrified to leave the security of the Convent to face an uncertain future serving the Baron George Von Trapp as the live-in tutor for his seven children. The Mother Superior told Maria Jesus’ words, that by losing her life she would find it. By giving up her own desire for the quiet life she thought she wanted, Maria found more blessing than she had dared to hope. By giving up her life to serve God, Maria found the life-long love of a devoted husband and family. Only by dying to ourselves, will we find God’s beautiful plan for our own future.



6. MOSES TELLS JETHRO ALL GOD HAS DONE AND JETHRO REJOICES



Exodus 18:8-12 “*And Moses told his father in law all that the LORD had done unto Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel’s sake, and all the travail that had come upon them by the way, and how the LORD delivered them.* ⁹ *And Jethro rejoiced for all the goodness which the LORD had done to Israel, whom he had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians.*

¹⁰ *And Jethro said, Blessed be the LORD, who hath delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaoh, who hath delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians.* ¹¹ *Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them.*

¹² **And Jethro, Moses’ father in law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God:** and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses’ father in law before God.”



VIEW OF MOSES’ ALTAR, CORAL AND ASHES

Moses told his father-in-law about all the hardships he had been through with the Israelites and the faithfulness of God. Jethro rejoiced that God had delivered the Israelites from slavery under the Egyptians and from the cruel hand of Pharaoh. Moses had proven to Pharaoh and to all Israel, that God could show Himself to be Lord over the very things the Egyptians had been so proud.

And there at the foot of the Mountain of God, Moses’ father-in-law Jethro, the priest, took animals to sacrifice for a burnt offering to God before the elders of Israel, and they broke bread together.

Hebrews 6:11-12 “*And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:* ¹² *that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”*

7. JETHRO TRIES TO HELP MOSES WITH HIS WISDOM.

Exodus 18:13-16 “And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. ¹⁴And when Moses’ father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?



¹⁵And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God: ¹⁶when they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and **I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.**”

The next day, Moses couldn’t visit because the people lined up for him to solve their problems all day long until night. Jethro observed his fatigue and asked why he wasn’t getting some help? Moses said he was simply teaching them what God wanted them to do according to His laws. Do you see that the scriptures record that God had made His laws known to the Israelites long before the Ten Commandments were written on the tablets of stone? It was Moses’ calling to make known God’s laws for loving one another.

Exodus 18:23-27 “And Moses’ father in law said unto him, **The thing that thou doest is not good.** ¹⁸Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; **thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.** ¹⁹**Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God...** ²¹Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: ²²and let them judge the people at all seasons: and **it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.**”

8. MOSES LISTENED TO MAN INSTEAD OF TO GOD.

Exodus 18:24-27 “If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace. ²⁴ So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said. ²⁵ And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. ²⁶ And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves. ²⁷ And Moses let his father in law depart; and he went his way into his own land.”

Jethro told Moses to select from all the people, men of truth to be rulers over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens, and that Moses should only listen to the most important matters. It sounded like a very good idea! **But only Moses was empowered by the Holy Spirit of God for Israel, and if Moses only listened to the most important matters, he would not be interacting with the Israelites every day teaching them God’s ways like God said.**

Moses knew what God had called him to do, but he listened to Jethro. Have you ever done something that got you into trouble because someone told you what to do and you listened to them? That’s what happened to Moses. **Moses didn’t ask God, and he just obeyed Jethro because he was very tired.** Jethro’s way was a good idea, a good way - but it was not God’s best way.



Hebrews 10:23 “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised.”

There are many ways that work OK, but only one way to get to heaven! Everything and everyone was created for a purpose.

9. MOSES FORGOT GOD'S PURPOSE FOR HIS LIFE.

Even though Moses was chosen by God to lead Israel, he did not question Jethro's authority and did exactly as Jethro said to do! How did Moses handle this problem differently than he ever had before? He did not ask God! What does God tell us always to do?

Acts 17:11 *“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that **they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**”*

God created us all for a purpose; even objects have a purpose:

OBJECT LESSON: Finding A Good Way or God's Way?

(Fork, Nail Clipper, Bowl, Lettuce, Wig, Stocking)

Moses forgot to ask God and listened to Jethro. because he was really tired. Jethro had a good solution for his problem but it was not God's way. God always knows best and will show you His purpose and best way when you remember to ask Him.

- *What is this? (Fork) I know what this is, (comb your hair with the fork) it works great! There, that's better. But is that the best use for a fork? No! A fork is made for eating food!*
- *I need help to make a salad for dinner, who can help me? (Give one child the clippers, lettuce and bowl) “Here you go, will you clip salad for me?” (leave the child clipping the salad)*
- *(Stocking) Who can show me a good way to use this stocking? (Have a preselected boy come forward and pull the stocking down over his head to cover his face like a robber) Now that may be a good way to use that stocking, but I don't think it's God's best way!*
- *Now we need some dusting done before our guests come for dinner. What can I find to dust with? (Have helper spot the wig and pick it up to enthusiastically begin dusting) Oh no! That's Mom's wig, it wasn't made for dusting! Give that back!*



Like these objects were made for a purpose, we too were created for a purpose. **Our lives work best when we follow God's way!**

10. WHEN JETHRO'S GOOD WAY FAILED, MOSES REMEMBERED TO PRAY TO FIND GOD'S WAY.

Psalm 37:5 "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

We can think of really good plans on our own because God gave each one of us the gifts of intelligence and creativity, but without committing our way to the Lord, our plans will certainly fail. So Moses went to God and poured out his heart to Him. God had the answer all along, just as He always does, when we humble ourselves and ask Him!



Numbers 11:11 "And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?."

There are going to be times in our lives when we will feel like the weight of the world is on our shoulders and don't know what to do. If you ask 5 different people for advice you will get 5 opinions, but still no answer, until you turn to God and wait for His answer.

Numbers 11:16-17 "the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. ¹⁷ And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone."

What was different in God's way? God alone can give His Holy Spirit to us and to those He sends to help us. In our own strength we will fail every time, until we wait for power from on high.

11. GOD'S WAY IS REVEALED BY HIS SPIRIT.



Numbers 11:25 “And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.”

Why do some of my own plans fail? Because I have not waited upon the Lord for confirmation through His word and His Spirit given freely in both Old and New Testaments, that empowers His people to declare the wonderful works of God!



Luke 24:49 “And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”

What is the danger of following the exciting “spirit led” teachings of popular pastors over the clear word of God? Because the “spirit” by which they are led may be a ‘familiar spirit’, impersonating the Holy Spirit of God. If their teaching does not line up with the Testimony of God, then their teaching is false.

Isaiah 8:19-20 “And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? ²⁰ To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

2 Corinthians 11:14 “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”

1 John 4:1 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

Test every ‘spirit’ by the word of God and His Testimony!

12. SITUATIONS TEMPT US TO PREMATURELY FIND A GOOD WAY THAT MAY NOT BE GOD’S WAY.

We can be deceived by our own desires for companionship, feel weary living our lives for God with no reward in view, and be tempted to just take the easier road, how can we know for sure?

Proverbs 14:12 “**There is a way which seemeth right unto a man,** but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

In these last days we hear many conflicting teachings, all taken from scripture, so most people believe that one teaching is as true as any other! Should we follow the teaching of a respected pastor that is only partly or not found anywhere in scripture? How about those who say they have had a face to face encounter with an angel or with God Himself, do they have greater credibility? How can we know if a teaching is true or not?

Colossians 2:18 “**Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.**”

Revelation 22:18-20 “**For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: ¹⁹ and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. ²⁰ He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**”

Safety is found in searching the whole word of God to establish truth. The doctrine of false teachers stands on scriptures taken out of context, and not those scriptures that do not agree with them.

Acts 20:26-27 “**Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.**”

13. LAST DAYS PASTORS WILL REJECT GOD’S LAW

1 John 4:3 “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and **this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.**”

We face an increase of deception in the end time church, seen long ago by the prophet Isaiah, that the real Jesus Christ would be a rock of offense to both houses of Israel: the Old Testament and New Testament church.

Isaiah 8:6-20 “For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying, ¹² Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. ¹³ Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. ¹⁴ And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for **a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel,** for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ¹⁵ And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken. ¹⁶ **Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.** ¹⁷ And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him. ¹⁸ **Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel** from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion. ¹⁹ And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? ²⁰ **To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.**”

The Testimony of God contained in the Ten Commandment Law was sealed among Jesus’ disciples to protect them from antichrist teaching not yet active in the church of Moses’ day but began operating after the birth of the Messiah whom they recognized as the God of Heaven on earth.

14 WE CAN IDENTIFY PREACHERS WHO DO NOT FOLLOW THE LIGHT OF GOD BECAUSE THEY PREACH AGAINST THE LAW OF GOD'S TESTIMONY.

It has become prevalent in these last days that we live, for very popular pastors to pervert the grace of God by teaching that a believer is the same as though cursing God if he attempts to obey God's law, citing only Galatians to prove their point:

Galatians 3:1-3 "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? ²This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? ³Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"

It is NOT the Law that was nailed to the cross, but the BLOOD ordinances and penalties of death that were nailed to the cross because Jesus Christ has paid it all when God became a man in His own Son so that the penalty of death was paid for us with the blood of GOD Himself, so that by faith in Him we have grace!

It is this grace provided by God's own blood that the foolish Galatians were ignoring when they supposed that they still obtained their own salvation by performing the works of the Law of God contained in those ordinances of the blood of bulls and goats, accompanied by all the washings and rituals that were tied up with those sacrifices, that was of course still in affect in the time of Moses. It was the law of blood sacrifices contained in those ordinances that Moses went back up on the mountain to write himself in the 'book of the law' that was laid beside the Ark, the law contained in ordinances that was nailed to the cross. But the law of God that is a testimony of Himself stands forever!

Romans 7:11 "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good."

We are free to obey the Law of God and trust Him to save us, because our faith is in the blood of Jesus Christ shed once for all!

15. GOD'S PURPOSE & PLAN FOR MY LIFE

1. **Enjoy the company of your unbelieving family or work mates but remember who you are in Christ; die to your flesh so that you will speak and walk in life.**
2. **Study the word and know what you believe so that you cannot be shaken by approval or disapproval.**
3. **Just because someone takes authority over you, does not mean their authority comes from God.**
4. **Don't settle for a good way and miss God's way.**
5. **Refuse to follow teaching that depends on twisting or adding new revelation to scripture because it cannot perfectly line up with the whole counsel of God's word.**
6. **Let's be faithful to obey the whole counsel of God and be ready because Jesus is coming quickly, Amen?**



Dear Father God,

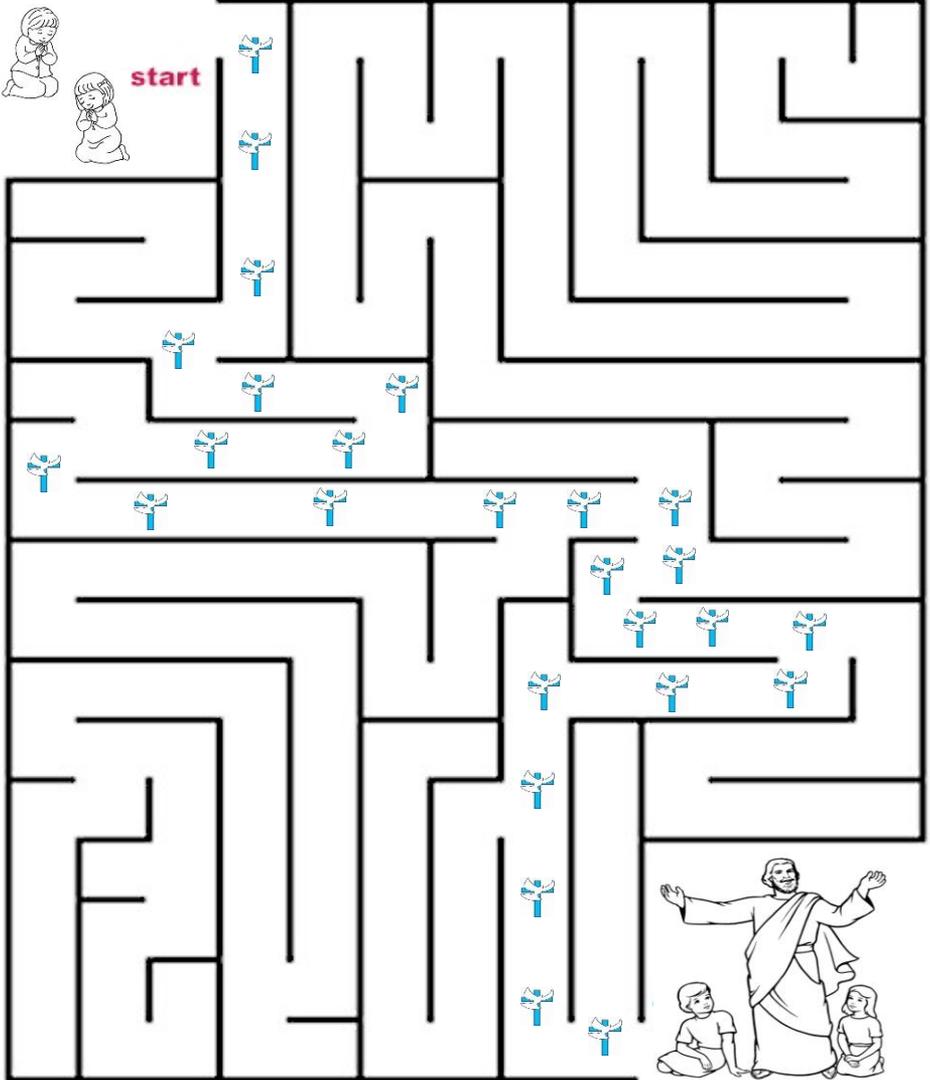
Thank you for sending your word to become flesh in our Lord Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. Thank you for saving me and filling me with Your Holy Spirit. Help me to not be discouraged by the confusing in our world today or by my own emotions, but help me to wait until you give me Your power from on high, so I will be empowered to listen and obey only Your voice and follow Your best way. Teach me Your ways so I will have good success and bring You glory and honor,

In Jesus name, Amen.

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**Jethro told Moses a good way, but Moses prayed, and
God showed Moses the best way to go.**

Trust in Jesus, and His Holy Spirit will lead you safely home!



GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

**I WILL FIND THE RIGHT WAY BY MAKING THE CHOICE
TO OBEY GOD'S WORD AND FOLLOW HIS VOICE**