



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon

THROUGH THE WILDERNESS #8 LETTING GO OF GOLDEN CALVES

Exodus 24-34



GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

**WHEN I LET GO OF SOMETHING THAT IS BAD FOR ME,
I WILL NOT GO BACK, BECAUSE WITH JESUS I'M FREE!**

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

Philippians 3:13-14 *“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,** ¹⁴I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

INTRODUCTION: When we enter into salvation covenant with God, He writes His law upon our hearts so we will know how to stay near Him in close relationship. Jesus always forgives us when we fall, but willfully choosing to go back to live in old sinful ways, breaks relationship with God. When Moses smashed the Ten Commandments when he saw God's children worshipping the same golden calf they had worshiped in Egypt, it was a picture of God's heart breaking the same as when we choose to go back to sin and break relationship with Him. God wants us to completely let go of our past and press on with Him to the mountain of God!

ORDER OF SERVICE:

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|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Light Candles & Pray | 4. Dismiss Kids to Noah's Ark with 'Animals Go Marching Song' | |
| 2. Children's Songs/Story | 5. Adult Fellowship Break | 7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer |
| 3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring | 6. Worship Song Set | 8. Blessing Songs & Benediction |

OBJECTS TO BRING: *Black crock pot and post it notes for burning golden calves.*

2. CHILDREN’S STORY: Mother’s Broken Heart

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Philip was very glad to be ten years old. Now his mother could trust him to walk all the way to the corner store and back by himself, so he could hardly wait until she needed something! It was getting time to be fixing dinner so Philip asked, “Mom, can I get you anything from the store?” Mom smiled, “Why yes we do, Philip, can you manage?” “I sure can!” he said. “OK Philip, here is \$20 but don’t forget to bring back the change,” and he went happily on his way.



When Philip got to the store, there were so many different kinds of candy, his mouth started to water! But he went straight to the milk cooler and pulled out a carton of milk, then to the

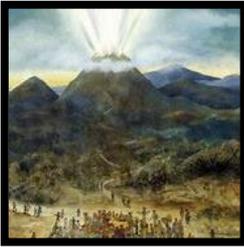


bread isle for some bread, and marched right up to the counter to pay. While Philip was in line, he saw all that candy again, and thought maybe he should get a candy bar so he picked one up. The more Philip looked at that candy, he thought he should get candy bars for his friends too, after all, he did have money in his “pocket. It was Philip’s turn to pay, so he put down the \$20 to pay for the milk, bread, and candy bars. The grocer teased him about having candy bar sandwiches for his supper and everybody laughed. Philip was very nervous because all the change he got back was only 45 cents! He knew he had sinned and he knew he had broken his mother’s trust in him, but he hurried home and gave his mother the groceries. “Be sure and put the change back in my purse, son.” “OK, mom,” he said. Philip didn’t know how to tell her about the candy so he put the 45 cents in her wallet, and hid the candy under his pillow. At dinner Philip was strangely quiet and asked to go to bed early – he just couldn’t tell his mother what he’d done!

In the morning, Philip walked past his mother’s office and saw her holding her head in her hands like her heart was broken. What should he do? He turned to go back and said, “Oh, mother, I’m so sorry, I meant to tell you but I was afraid.” Philip’s mother hugged him close and said, “Don’t ever be afraid to come tell me the truth Philip. I was sad, but I forgive you. **Jesus always forgives you when you come to Him, because Jesus loves you and so do I!**”

3. THE ISRAELITES CHOSE TO BE AFRAID BUT MOSES DREW NEAR TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

Exodus 24:12-18 “*And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them....¹⁷ And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. ¹⁸ And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount....”*



Moses took Joshua with him, and left Aaron in charge with the elders to take care of the people while he went up into the mountain to talk to God. **Remember that the Israelites had to stay behind because they chose to fear God, instead of trusting Him.** **Ex 20:19** “*...let not God speak with us, lest we die.*”

Moses and Joshua were excited that God was there and couldn't wait to be near Him! The people only saw the lightning and heard the sound of the trumpet. When Jesus comes again, this picture of lightning and thunder and loud trumpet call will be repeated!

1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 “*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”* **Revelation 6:15-17** “*And...the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: ¹⁷ for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”*

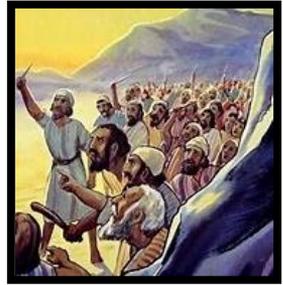
Those who love God will be excited to see Him like Moses and rise up to meet Him, but to those who are fearful who don't want to know God, will only see lightning and fire and be afraid. What will you do when you hear the trumpet sound?

4. TRUSTING GOD REQUIRES MOVING TO ACTION.

The Israelites were clinging to the only security they had ever known, much like a severely abused child who will cling to the abusive parent who beat them, because that is the only security the child has ever known. The Israelites wanted to go back to Egypt because at least then, even though they were beaten down, they knew what was going to happen; facing the unknown is scary!

Moses faced many situations that were very frightening, yet why was Moses able to overcome his fears and draw close to God, while the people of God became so frozen in fear that they could not? The Almighty God, their only Savior and only hope, was speaking personally to His people, yet they were so afraid, they could not trust Him enough to listen. Why was that? We see one recurring theme throughout their journey through the wilderness:

1 Corinthians 10:10-12 *“Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. ¹¹ Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. ¹² Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”*



Moses trusted God 100% and obeyed His voice immediately without question, while the Israelites complained and questioned God’s motives. Trusting God requires immediate action, while fear requires complaining and doing nothing. **Only by trusting God, did Moses get to enter into the glory of His presence** to receive the gifts and knowledge God had for Him to minister to the people, and that is what God wants for each one of us.

Ephesians 4:11-13 *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”*

5. FEAR MUST BE OVERCOME BY FAITH MOVING US TO ACTION, OR FEAR WILL RIPEN INTO UNBELIEF.

Exodus 20:21 “*And the people stood afar off, and **Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.**”* *Ex 24:18* “*And **Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount:** and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.”*



The way of the Lord is not always bright and clear, but like Moses going into a dark cloud, not knowing what lies ahead. **The light of the Lord does not get bright until you trust Him and go in there!** The Israelites did not enter into God’s presence even after they promised again to obey Him, **because their promise had no action.** Their actions, and ours, show what we really believe.

James 2:17-18 “*Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: **shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.**”*

Moses had a simple faith in God that gave Him courage to simply do everything God said without question. His works showed what was in his heart, and Moses found himself in the very presence of the glory of God! Why is it sometimes hard for us to enter into God’s presence? Because we put other things first and draw back.

Hebrews 10:38 “*Now **the just shall live by faith;** but **if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.**”*

James 4:7-10 “*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. ⁹Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. ¹⁰Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”*

God’s word does not teach us to tell ourselves how wonderful God thinks we are, but God’s word tells us to purify our hearts and humble ourselves so that God will lift us up into glory with Him!

6. UNBELIEF RIPENS & THE GOLDEN CALF IS MADE.

Exodus 31:18 “And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.”

Exodus 32:1-8 “And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, **Up, make us gods, which shall go before us;** for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. ² And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me...⁴And **he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf;** and they said, **These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.** ⁵ And **when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD....**⁷ And the LORD said unto Moses, **Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:** ⁸ they have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.”



² And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me...⁴And **he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf;** and they said, **These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.** ⁵ And **when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD....**⁷ And the LORD said unto Moses, **Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:** ⁸ they have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.”

The people saw that Moses was delayed and felt insecure. They wanted the feeling of security they'd had before in Egypt where everybody worshipped the same; at least a golden calf they could see, was better than the fear and doubt they felt now. When answers to our prayers are delayed in coming, like the Israelites, our own sin will ripen if we do not repent. How quickly insecurity can cause me to fall back into behaviors or relationship patterns from my past, that are corrupt! **Every one of us must be aware of how quickly fear can grip our hearts, so keep watch and pray!**

7. WHEN YOU ARE TEMPTED, MOVE AWAY QUICKLY!

God told Moses that he should take the tablets and go quickly to the Israelites because they had made themselves an image to worship. When you are tempted, resist, move away quickly!

James 1:12-16 “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. ¹³ Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: ¹⁴ but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. ¹⁶ Do not err, my beloved brethren.”

God was angry with the people for being so willing to leave Him to settle for a false god of gold. God is so loving and kind, how can we keep breaking His heart? How can we not love Him back? God was so heartbroken, that He planned to destroy the Israelites, and make another nation for Moses to lead! But Moses prayed. He reminded God of the promise He had made and of His mercy. God listens to our prayers! He heard Moses and did not destroy the Israelites. God is so loving, merciful, and patient with us! How can we enter in and remain in the glory cloud of God when we are not perfect? God’s way is to change us from glory to glory as we look into the mirror of His word and love Him back!

2 Corinthians 3:18 “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”



That change in our hearts, being changed into the image of Jesus, is why God’s word says we will have what we say in prayer; it is because when we become like Jesus, His will has become our own!

Mark 11:23 “For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

8. MOSES PRAYS FOR THE PEOPLE TO REPENT, JESUS GIVES US THE SAME GOSPEL OF REPENTANCE.

Exodus 32:9-14 “And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: ¹⁰ now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. ¹¹ And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? ¹² Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.....¹⁴ And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.”

The Lord saw that the people were stubborn and planned to destroy them and start all over. But Moses had compassion and was concerned about what the enemy would say against God, that God did not destroy them. Where is my heart? How can I learn to more closely walk in integrity of heart and honor like Moses?



Psalm 51:6-13 “Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. ⁹ Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. ¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. ¹³ Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.”

Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

9. THE GOLDEN CALF PICTURES US PLACING A LOVE FOR SATAN & HIS WAYS ABOVE GOD WHO LOVES US.

Exodus 32:15-20 “*And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and **the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written.*** ¹⁶*And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.* ¹⁷*And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp.* ¹⁸*And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear.* ¹⁹*And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that **he saw the calf, and the dancing:** and **Moses’ anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.*** ²⁰*And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.”*



Why was Moses so angry that the Israelites had made a golden calf? The Israelites had worshipped the golden calf during their time of slavery in Egypt. The god Molech, to whom babies were sacrificed, was also molten into the form of the golden calf or bull. The Israelites had so quickly turned from God back to faith in this sun-god idol of Egypt, that made them feel comfortable and secure.

*Apis, (Greek); Egyptian Hap, Hep, Osiris-Apis, or Hapi, in ancient Egyptian religion, sacred bull deity worshipped at Memphis. The cult of Apis originated at least as early as the 1st dynasty (c. 2925–c. 2775 BCE). Like other bull deities, Apis was probably at first a fertility god concerned with the propagation of grain and herds, but he became associated with Ptah, the paramount deity of the Memphite area, and also with Osiris and Sokaris, gods of the dead and of the underworld. As Apis-Atum he was associated with the solar cult and was often represented with the sun-disk between his horns. **Encyclopedia Britannica***

10. GOD FORGIVES HIS PEOPLE AND EXTENDS HIS MERCY TO US AGAIN, AND AGAIN.

Deuteronomy 9:8-10:5 Moses' heart was broken. In anger, he threw down the stone tablets, burned the golden calf and ground it to powder. Aaron blamed the others but he was responsible. God gave new tablets. Moses' face glowed from being in the presence of the glory of God, can we come into the presence of God's glory like Moses? Yes you can, call upon God and He will answer you!

Jeremiah 33: 3 "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."

1 Peter 1:3-8 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: ⁷ that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: ⁸ whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."

Exodus 32:15-28 Moses went down the mountain carrying the stone tablets in his hands. When Moses saw the people worshipping the golden calf, singing and dancing naked around the calf, he was so angry with them that he threw the Ten Commandment tablets down on the ground, and they broke like Moses' and God's hearts were broken! Moses burned and melted the golden calf, then ground it to powder. The consequences of sin, is broken hearts and broken lives, but when we give up our Golden Calves, our lives become whole and blessed once more, and that is what God wants for you! Moses asked, "Who is on the Lord's side? Let him come to me!" 3,000 people died that day, but all who came to stand for God were saved. **Let's live our lives standing up for God!**

11. GOD'S PURPOSE & PLAN FOR MY LIFE

1. When we enter into salvation covenant with God, He writes His 10 Commandment Law of Love in our hearts.
2. When we break God's Commandments we break His heart but He always forgives us when we confess because He loves us.
3. Those who love God will be excited to see Him like Moses and rise up to meet Him when He comes.
4. Trusting God requires our moving to take action.
5. Fear must be overcome by our faith moving us to action, or fear will ripen into unbelief.
6. When unbelief ripens, the golden calf is made.
7. When you are tempted, move away quickly!
8. Jesus gave to Moses, and He gives us the same Gospel of repentance, and receiving of His Holy Spirit.
9. The Golden Calf pictures us placing a love for Satan and his ways above our God who loves us.
10. God forgives His people and extends His mercy to us again and again because of His everlasting love for each one of us.

Letting Go of Golden Calves:

I want us to do something today as a physical token of our covenant with God. Each of us has a small note stuck to this page. I want us each to write on this note, that sin that keeps coming back in our life, that golden calf that threatens our covenant relationship with God. Then like Moses did, we are going to crumple these sins and toss them like the golden calf into the fire in this pot, that will burn them to dust! When we are tempted we will remember this day when we gave up that sin and purified ourselves before the Lord! I will start and each one of us will crumple up that sin and toss it in the fire.



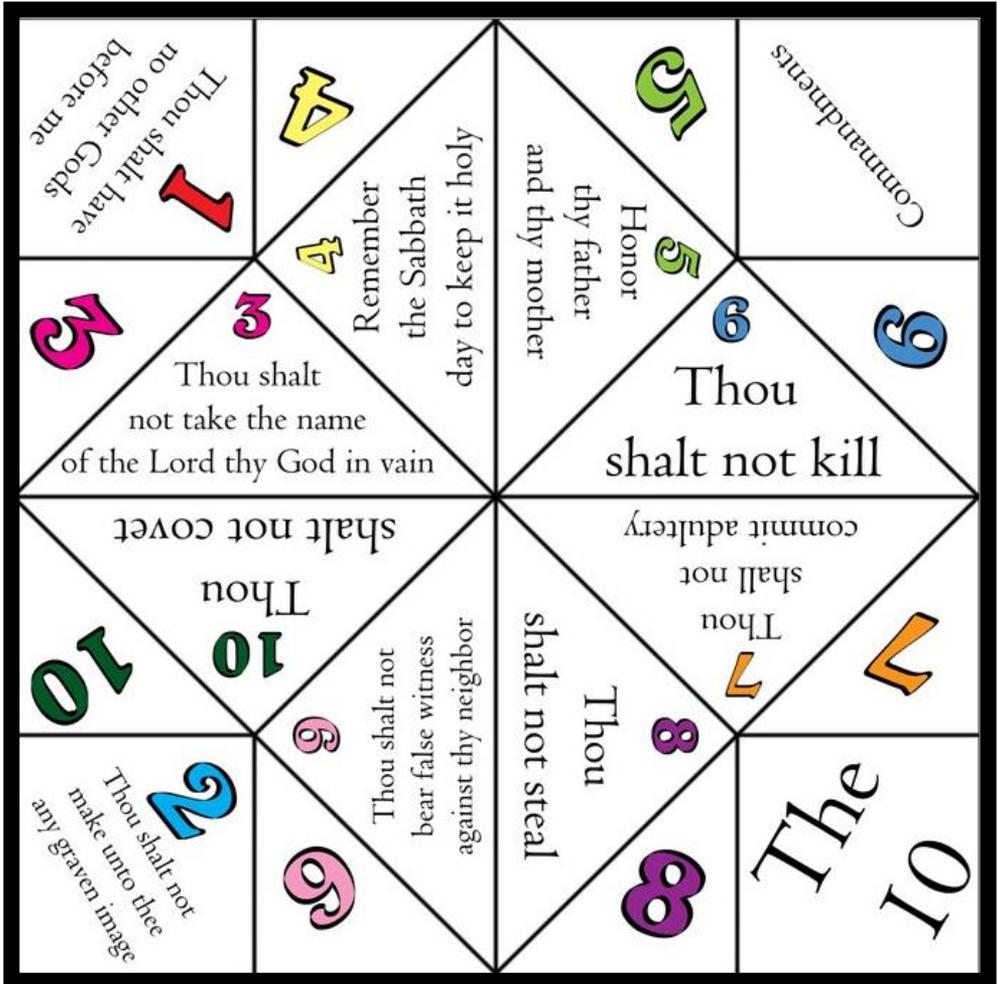
Let's pray this prayer together:

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for being so patient with me. I pray you will forgive me Lord and make my life to be whole with a fullness of joy. Take away every spot that keeps me from hearing your voice and walking with you. Make me to have a heart like Moses, with your will becoming my will, so I can teach others your ways and bring them to you, I pray **in Jesus name, Amen.**

11. GOSPEL C RAFT: Folding Game: God's Law of Love

Directions:

1. Cut out around bold black line.
2. Fold exactly in half on line, and fold in half again.
3. Continue folding in on lines until a pyramid shape is formed.
(This method of folding into a finger game is also called a "cootie catcher")
4. Place fingers into the 4 spaces of the pyramid.
5. Open in different positions to follow Commandment #1, #2 and so on!
6. Have fun following God's way!



12. TIMELINE COLORING PAGE: GOD'S LAW OF LOVE

**GOD GAVE TO MOSES HIS LAW OF LOVE FOR US,
THE 10 COMMANDMENTS WRITTEN WITH HIS
OWN FINGER ON THE TABLETS OF STONE.
1491 B.C.**



TODAY GOD WRITES HIS LAW OF LOVE IN OUR HEARTS