

Story and activities for the very young to use in church or at home.

God's Loving Way

A story based on Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Clippety-clop, clippety-clop went the donkeys. Trip-trot, trip-trot went the sheep. Step-step, shuffle-shuffle went the people. They were travelling across a big, hot desert.

Mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers, aunts and uncles, girls and boys. They were looking for a new home. Moses was leading them. The sun hurt their eyes. The sand hurt their feet. They were thirsty. They were tired.

After a long while, the people forgot how to live in loving ways. Sometimes they pushed and shouted. Sometimes they took food that belonged to others. Sometimes the children didn't listen to their parents, and the parents didn't listen to their children. Sometimes they did not stop to take time to be with God. Day after day, the people became more and more unhappy.

Moses was a loving leader and wanted to help the people. What could Moses do?

Moses decided to climb a mountain and pray to God, "Please help us, God. The people have forgotten how to live in loving ways."

Soon God answered Moses. "Moses, I will give my people some loving rules so they will learn to show love for one another."

Moses listened carefully. Then Moses wrote everything down so he wouldn't forget what God said.

Early the next morning, Moses climbed down the mountain and called all the people together. "I have wonderful news for you. God has given us some loving ways to help us live together. Come and listen."

Now the people were curious. What were these loving ways? And then Moses told the people how God imagined this world to be.

1. Remember, God is love.
2. There is only one loving God.
3. Say God's name with love.
4. Take time to rest and pray to God.
5. Parents and children, love and care for one another.
6. Share with each other. There were other loving rules, too. The people looked at each other and smiled. And then they prayed, "Thank you, God, for keeping your promise and bringing us back together again. Your way is full of love."

Living Loving Ways

When Moses told the people about God's loving ways, they prayed, "Thank you, God, for keeping your promise and bringing us back together again. Your way is full of love."

I promise to...

God always keeps promises. What kind of promises might you make to God's loving way? Maybe you could take some extra rest time or take better care of the people and animals God created. Or you could promise to try to be better at listening or sharing with your friends. Write or draw a loving way.



Loving Ways

Moses gave God's message to the people, saying, "Here are some ways that you will live."



Instructions

- Decorate and cut out the four hands and four hearts.
- Glue the hands and the hearts around the edge of a paper plate.
- Add a loop of yarn for a hanger.

