Adapted Godly Play Story (by Jerome Berryman)

Are you ready to hear a story?

> Before we get into the story, I want to tell you a little bit about being a person – a child, a young adult, an adult, an elder.
>
> Some people say that when we were born we had nothing good inside of us.
> And we needed to learn to do good.
>
> **I am not so sure about that. I have heard it said that we were born blessed – with goodness in our core and love filled to overflowing.**
>
> Something in this world hurt us, broke us and we became:
> *good people who did hurtful things to others, ourselves and to the earth.*

This story is about one way that people heard Creator reminding them who they really are.

Now, are you ready to hear a story?

Image One: The Desert

The story begins in a desert, before we had all the gear from MEC like tents and hiking shoes, water bottles and backpacks. And freeze-dried food.

Back then, deserts were dangerous places.
People didn't go into the desert unless they had to.
There is no water there and without water we die.
There is no food there, without food, we die.

When the wind blows, it changes the shape of the desert.
People get lost. Some never come back.

In the daytime, the sun is so hot that people must wear lots of clothes to protect themselves from the sun and the blowing sand.
The sand stings when it hits your skin.
The sun scorches you by day. At night it is cold.
You need many clothes to keep warm.

The desert is a dangerous place. People only go there if they have to.

There was a group of people who had left their life as slaves in Egypt.
They had prayed and God had helped them escape.

But the only way out of the land was through the water and into the desert.

And while they were in the desert. The lost sight of their best selves.
They started to argue, to grumble. They stopped sharing and started to hoard. They stopped listening to each other. They stopped being grateful.

The forgot the best way to live.

Image two: The Holy Mountain

God loved the People so much that God whispered to their leader – 'climb the mountain'.
It was a scary mountain – it was covered in fire and smoke.

Moses took a deep breath, and mustered all the courage he could find. Being a leader is tough sometimes. It is not always clear what to do. But he knew he needed to find some wisdom from a power bigger than himself. So he climbed the mountain.

When he got to the top of the mountain. The air was so sweet, the view of the desert was spectacular, it didn't look so scary anymore.
He was in the presence of God. So close, he breathed in the Spirit. And he breathed out the wisdom of God.
And then he knew what he was to tell the people.

He found some stones and he began to carve.

The words that formed on the stones were inspiring ways to remind the people how to be who they were created to be.
With goodness in their core and filled with love to overflowing.

These are the ten best ways to live. Moses gave these words to the people, and they gave them to us.

Image three: The tablets.

The ten best ways tell us:
Love God, Love People, God Loves Us (each one of us and all of us together).

1. Don't serve other gods. (Be careful who you serve – don't give power to just anything or anybody)
2. Make no idols to worship.
3. Be serious when say God's name.

4. Keep the Sabbath holy. (Rest is important it's a way of loving God and loving each other)

5. Honour your parents (those who raise you, Dads, Moms, grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Teachers)
6. Don't Kill
7. Don't break your marriage – try your best to honour your commitments to each other.
8. Don't steal – build a society where you share.
9. Don't lie – being honest brings freedom.
10. Don't even want what others have.

These are not the ten easy ways to live.
There are the ten best ways to live.

They are challenging. And sometimes confusing.
The best ways are like stones making a path. Showing us how to walk.

And we try our best, with God's help.

Following the way of love – means we wake up every morning, we breathe in the Spirit…

> **We remind ourselves that we have**
> **goodness in our core and we are filled with love to overflowing.**

Wonderings:

I wonder where you are in the story or what part of the story is about you?

I wonder, which one of these best ways is especially for you today?

I wonder, which one we can leave out and still have all we need?