



## Walking with God: Following Him

*"Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys.... For the cloud of the Lord was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys." Exodus 40:36-38*

When we take walks together, there are times we must stop to keep safe, times we must walk to get closer to our destination, and times we need to rest for a little while to refuel so we can go on. The same was true for the Israelites, God's chosen people--the people He guided out of the land of Egypt where they were slaves, through a dry and empty wilderness, and on to the "Promised Land," a place full of good foods and beautiful sights. Moses was the leader of the Israelite people, and God gave him the 10 Commandments etched on stone tablets to share with them how to live a life pleasing to God. The words of God were so precious to them that they built an "ark," or a large container to protect the tablets. God sent a cloud to sit above the ark during the day, and a pillar of fire at night. Anytime the cloud or pillar of fire moved, the people moved their camp. That means they moved their children, animals, clothing, tools, tents, and all their belongings! Hard work! When it stopped, the people stopped and set up a new camp. They trusted that God was guiding them to a better life if they followed His commandments, even if it was inconvenient or they were tired, or it didn't make sense to them at the time.

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**Follow the Bible Challenge:** This week on your walk, bring a blanket, some snacks & drinks, and most importantly a bible! Find a spot to sit down, eat, and read more about God's commandments in Exodus 20:1-21. Then, take turns acting as the cloud/pillar of fire. Whoever holds the Bible represents the cloud and wherever that person leads, the rest of the family must pack up everything and follow them - a biblical game of "Follow the Leader," with the Bible as the leader.

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**Journal Idea:** Answer the following question: What are ways that our family follows God's commandments, and how can we do better?

