God loved his people

He’d rescued them from a terrible life of slavery in Egypt

But they weren’t happy.

And God knew why…

They wanted to live their lives without listening to him

The thought they could do a better job than God

of choosing what was good and what was bad

So God gave them some rules

Rules that would keep them happy

Rules that would keep them safe

Rules that would help them live the best possible life

God gave them the most important rule first

Love me – said God

Love me more than you love anything else.

Love me because I love you.

That was God’s number one rule – to love him

How easy is that?!

God gave them some other rules that would help them to love him

(2) Don’t make pretend gods – gods that can’t love you back

(3) Be careful how you use my name – don’t be silly about who I am

(4) Take some time every week to remember who I am

God also gave them some good rules to help each other.

Rules like:

(5) Love your mommy and daddy

(6) Don’t kill anyone – and don’t try and hurt them

(7) Keep your promises

(8) Don’t take things from other people

(9) Tell the truth and don’t tell lies

(10) If someone else has something nice – be happy they have it.

Those are really good rules and if everybody kept those rules we’d be really happy.

But nobody kept the rules

People wanted what other people had and took it.

People would hurt each other and tell lies

People didn’t listen to their mommies and daddies

People weren’t being loving to each other

And worst of all they weren’t loving God.

God was sad.

But he wasn’t surprised.

God knew his people couldn’t keep the rules

God wanted everybody to realise that they needed his help

and one day God would send his true king

A king who would help us

‘Cos we couldn’t help ourselves

A king who could keep all the rules

‘Cos we couldn’t keep them on our own

And best of all God’s true king would give his people new hearts

Hearts that loved God