**“I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, where you were slaves”** (Exodus 20.1)

There is no proof that God exists – if there was, it would not be faith. This does not mean faith is irrational.

Having faith does not end the question about God. The first 4 of the Ten Commandments are relevant here.

[1] Loyalty (v3ff)

Early man had lots of gods, for all manner of areas of life.

*How many gods are there and how many should we follow?*

We are used to belief in one God, but this was not at all obvious at the time of Moses.

God’s argument is that he, unlike all other gods, had done a lot for the People of God & so deserved loyalty. This did not mean there were no other gods, but that these others should not be followed. (v3 esp)

[2] Worship (v8ff)

*What does it mean to follow a god?* Any god sets out the rules – including worship and ritual observances.

For the People of God this included circumcision of males & Sabbath rest, observing various festivals (Day of Atonement, Rosh Hashanah, Passover, Tabernacles, etc).
Christianity has baptism, Sunday, and Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

If we worshipped a different god, there would be different worship and ritual observances.

[3] The Moral Dimension (v7)

There is (unusually in Moses’ day) a moral dimension. Not *anything* goes for this God.

For us this is the most important element in following God, only slowly understood by the People of God,

hence Jesus’ summary (Matthew 22.37-39).

In case all this comes across as God demanding stuff from us and giving nothing much in return…

1. The People of God would have expected this – gods were powerful (see last week)
2. The People of God slowly realised that all we give is not really for God’s benefit, but for our own.
As we follow God we find a joy and freedom not there when we follow ourselves. We are better for it!

It is almost as if it does not matter if there is no proof, the exercise of faith is enough.

Our faith that there is a God, means we need to relate to that God, through loyalty, worship & our morality.