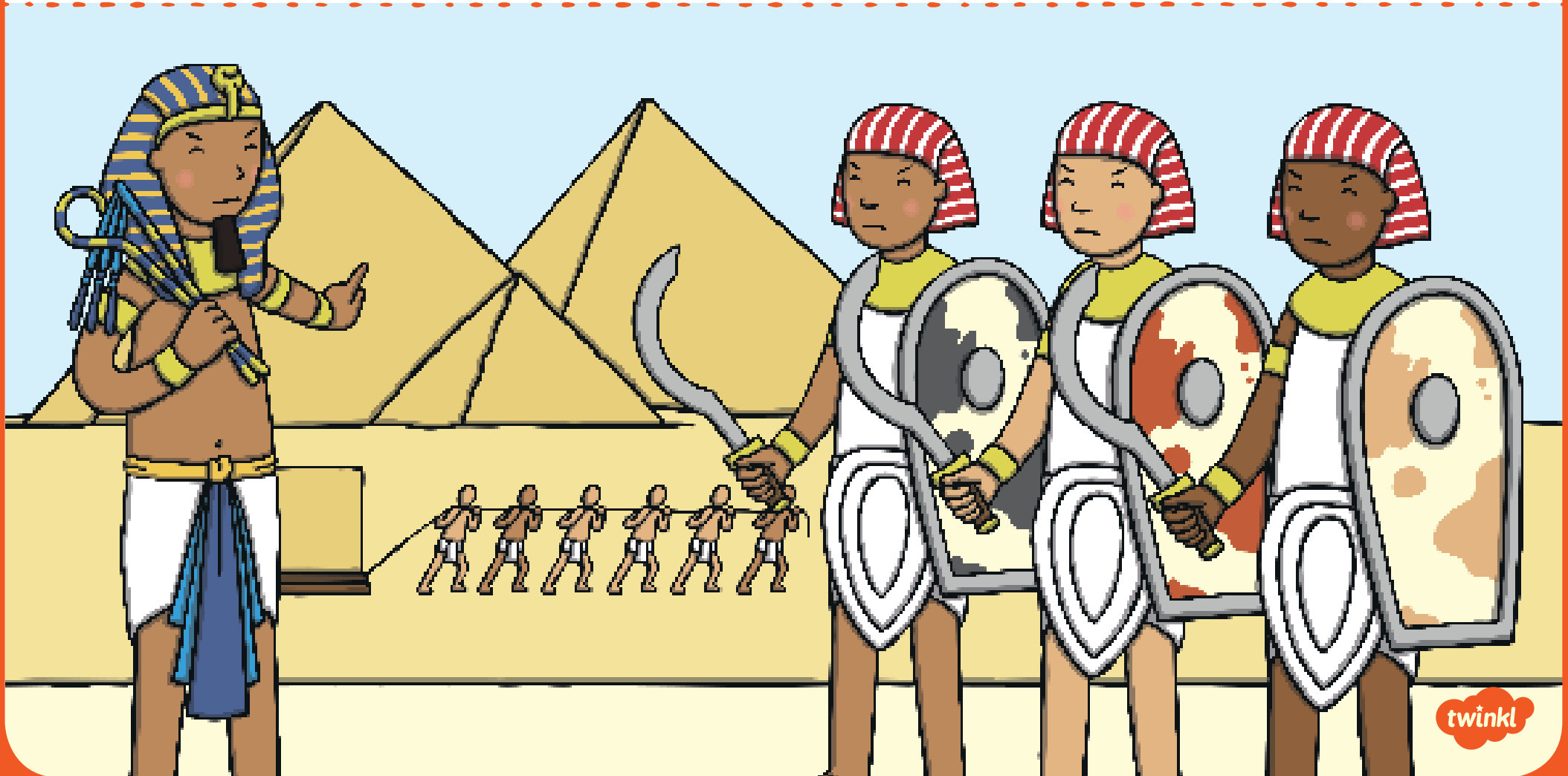


Moses



When Moses was born the Hebrews were slaves in Egypt. Pharaoh was afraid of them because he thought they might take over his country. He ordered his soldiers to kill all the baby boys at birth so they would not grow up and fight him.



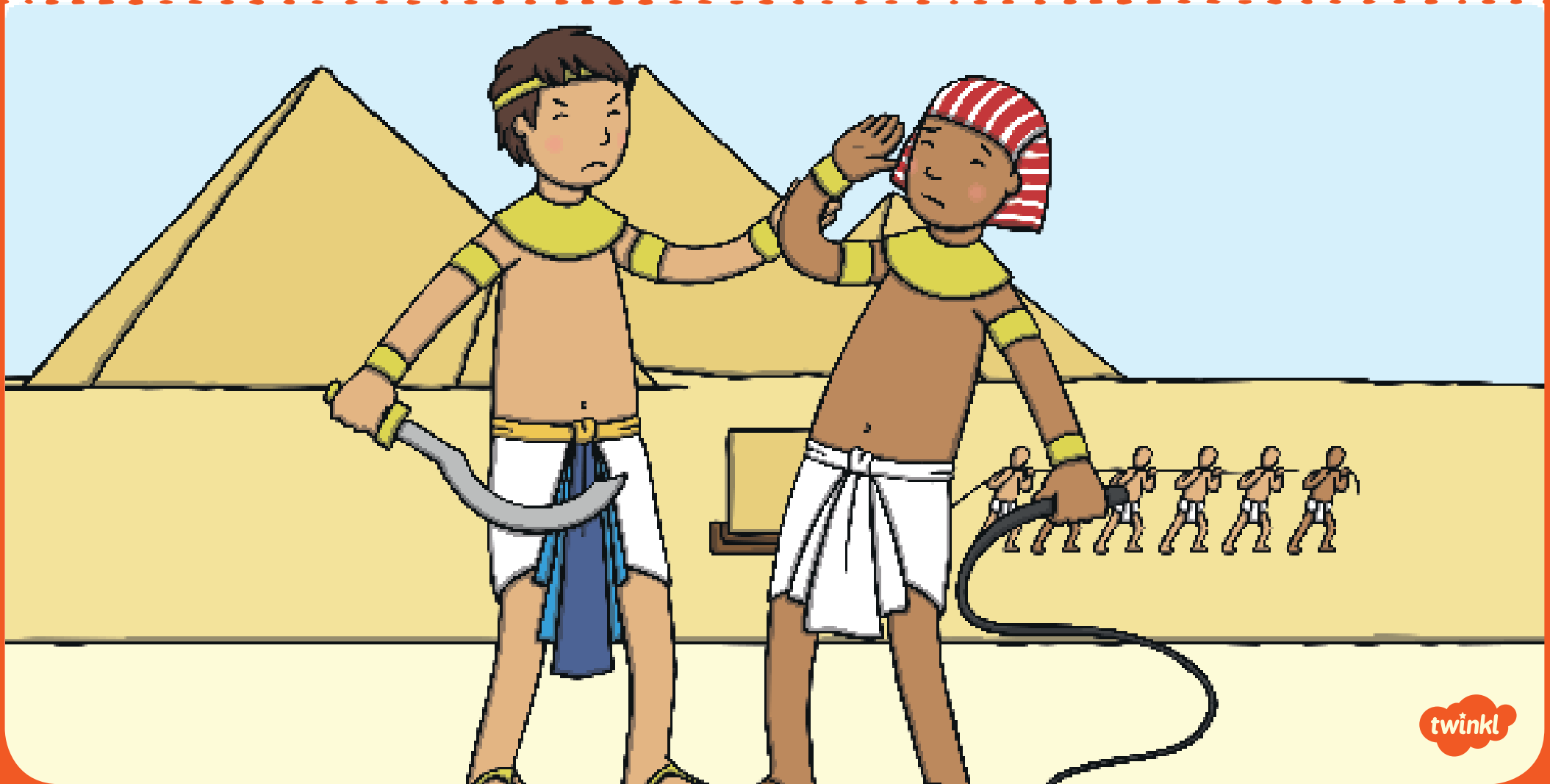
To save Moses his mother made a plan. She put him in a basket and set him adrift on the River Nile and left his fate to God's will.



Moses floated down the river where the Pharaoh's daughter found and rescued him. She brought him back to the palace and raised him as a son.



Moses grew up in the palace as a royal prince. One day he lost his temper and killed an Egyptian who had beaten a Hebrew slave to death. He had to flee to another land.



He lived in the land of Midian and worked as a shepherd for forty years. One day, when he was in the desert, Moses heard the voice of God from a burning bush. God asked Moses to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land.



Moses went back to Egypt and asked the Pharaoh to free his people. Pharaoh did not want to lose his slaves so he refused. God unleashed ten plagues on the Egyptians.



It was the tenth plague that finally made the Pharaoh let them go. The eldest son in every family, including the Pharaoh's, died. The Hebrews marked their doorposts with lamb's blood so that they would be safe. The Hebrews fled but soon after the Pharaoh changed his mind and sent his army after them.



The army chased the Hebrews to the banks of the Red Sea where they were trapped. God told Moses to lift up his rod and as he did so the waters parted to make a dry path.



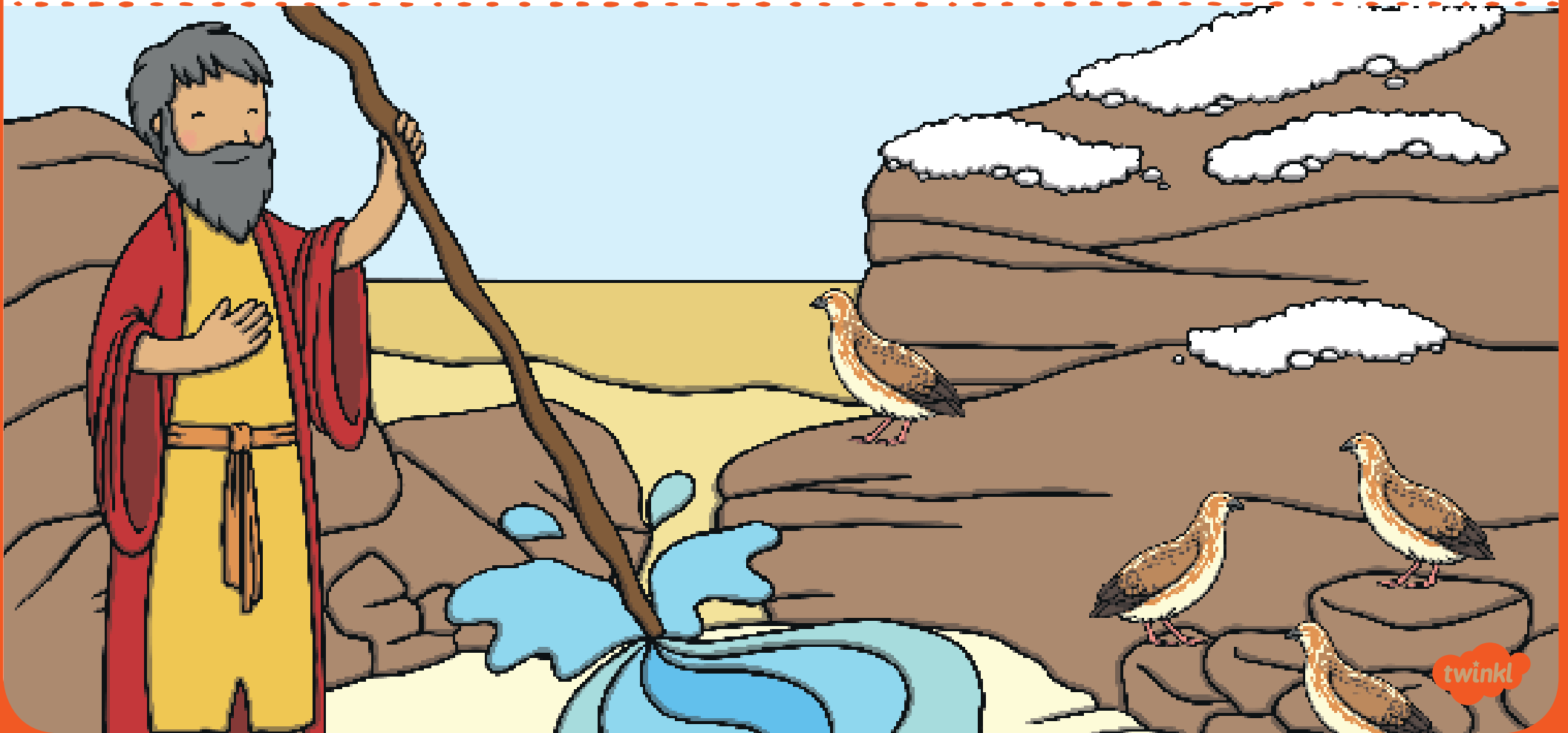
When all the Hebrews were safely at the other shore, Moses raised up his rod again and the water closed on the Pharaoh's army who had been chasing them. God had saved the Hebrews.



Even though the Hebrews were free they were still in the Desert. They wanted to find a land called Canaan which God had promised them. The journey was very long and they soon ran out of food. They were hungry and blamed Moses for taking them out of Egypt. Moses told them that God would provide food.



The next day the ground was covered with a white food that tasted like honey. God also sent a flock of birds called quails that they cooked and ate. When their water ran out, God told Moses to strike a rock with his rod. As he did so water rushed out and they all had enough to drink.



After three months of travelling the Hebrews arrived at the foot of Mount Sinai. God called Moses to meet him at the top of the mountain. As he climbed up there was a thunder storm.



At the top of the mountain God gave Moses ten laws which told the people how to live. These Ten Commandments were written on two tablets of stone.

I
I am the Lord
your God

II
You shall have no gods
before Me

III
You shall not take the
Lord's name in vain

IV
Remember and keep
the Sabbath holy

V
Honour your father
and mother

VI
You shall
not kill

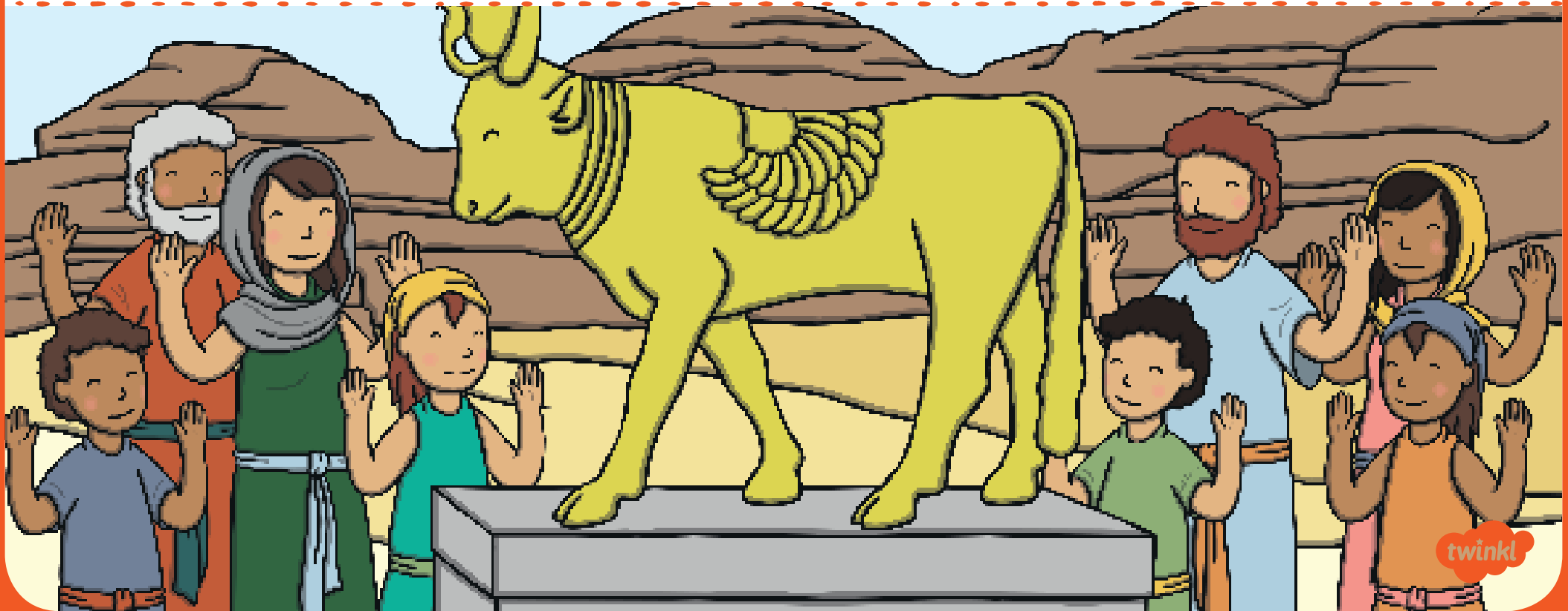
VII
You shall not
commit adultery

VIII
You shall not
steal

IX
You shall not hear
false witness

X
You shall not covet your
neighbour's wife nor goods

Moses was gone for a very long time, and the people waiting at the foot of the mountain grew angry. They decided to make themselves another god to worship. It was a golden calf. When Moses returned to find the people worshipping the calf he was very shocked. He broke the tablets God had given him and destroyed the calf. God forgave the people for worshipping the statue and told Moses to cut two more tablets of stone.



Moses took the stone tablets up the mountain and God gave him the Ten Commandments again. When he came down all the people listened to Moses as he told them what God had said. Moses promised God that the Hebrews would keep all of the Commandments.

