



**D**o your parents ever say things like, “Don’t forget to take out the trash”? Or “Don’t forget to feed the dog”? They are reminding you to obey. The children of Israel were about to enter the Promised Land—without Moses. What would he say to them?

**M**oses looks longingly out over the Jordan River into the Promised Land. He is sad because he won’t be going there. He pleads with God to let him enter that land with the people. But God says to Moses, “Speak no more of this. You may view the land, but you may not enter it.”

So Moses doesn’t ask about it anymore. He accepts God’s wisdom and will. But now Moses thinks about the children of Israel. Who is going to lead them if he can’t? Who is going to care about them? He prays and asks God to provide

a good leader.

God tells Moses that Joshua will lead the people. Joshua has worked beside Moses since Aaron died. Moses knows Joshua is a man of wisdom and faith. So Moses is happy with God’s choice.

God has one last thing for Moses to do. Many years have gone by since the people first heard the Ten Commandments at Sinai. Most of the adults living now were small children then (or hadn’t even been born). They couldn’t have understood what was happening at Sinai. Few of them were old enough to know what it meant. So God tells Moses to proclaim those laws once more. God wants His people to follow His law as they settle in their new land.

And so Moses calls the people together. Moses’ face is lit up with a holy light. His long white hair flows down over his still-strong shoulders. His clear and wise eyes look out over the thousands of people standing before him. These are his last words to them.

With much emotion, he starts by repeating their history. They had been slaves in Egypt and God had rescued them. He reminds them of the great miracles God had performed for them. He tells how they had escaped through the Red Sea. During all their travels, God had provided food and water. He had guided them by a pillar of fire and cloud. He tells them of the sins of their parents who had grumbled, complained, and worshiped idols. He



# The Message

We worship God when we choose to obey Him.

## Memory Verse

“Love the Lord your God and . . . serve him with all your heart”

(Deuteronomy 10:13, NIV).

reminds them of their travel in the desert for 40 years before they could go into Canaan. Moses also talks of the great patience and love of God toward them, of His forgiveness and grace.

Moses tells them that the rules God has given them are wiser than all the rules of other nations. They are to be an example of God’s wisdom. They are to care for the other nations. They are told of the wonderful things awaiting them in Canaan.

Then Moses goes over the laws with them again. He is still afraid that they will forget and stray away from God. So he reminds them of the wonderful blessings that would be theirs if they obey God.

it in Deuteronomy 32. It tells of the wonderful way God had shown His love in the past. And it tells of future events and the final victory of Christ’s second coming. Moses says, “Command your children to obey the words of this law. These are not idle words—they are your life.

Live by them now and in the years to come.”

The people are to memorize this song, to teach it to their children. They are to remember it always. It will help them remember what God has done for them.

After this, Moses climbed Mt. Nebo in the land of Moab. There he looked one more time into the Promised Land. “And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in

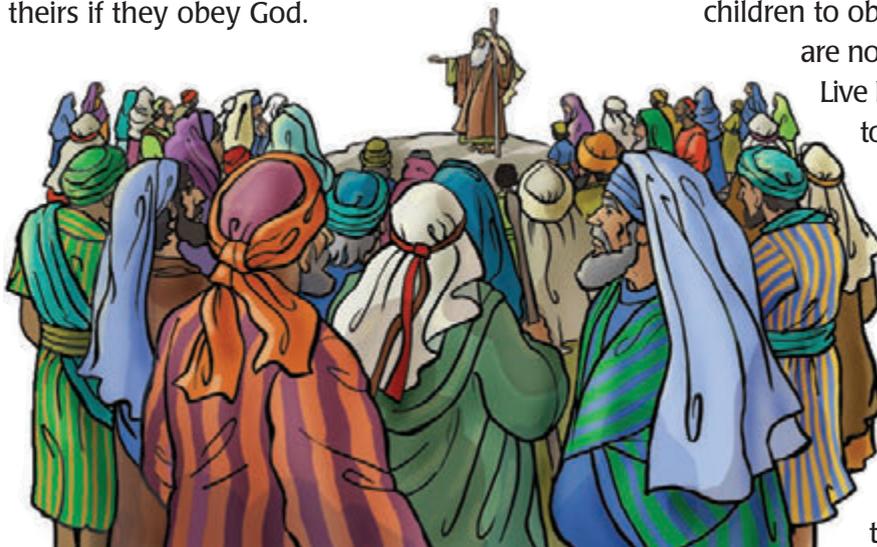
Moab, as the Lord had said” (Deuteronomy 34:5, NIV).

“But he was not long to remain in the tomb. Christ Himself, with the angels who had buried Moses, came down from heaven to call forth the sleeping saint. . . . Moses came forth from the tomb glorified, and ascended with his Deliverer to the City of God” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 478, 479).

He tells of the blessings of wealth and prosperity. God offers plenty of food, good leaders, and protection against enemies.

But Moses also tells of the curses of losing their land if they disobey. They will have no peace or safety. They will live in fear and sorrow, and suffer diseases.

Then Moses closes with a song. You can read





## S A B B A T H

**READ** With your family, find a quiet place and read Deuteronomy 4:1-14. Who is speaking? To whom? What is his message?

**SHARE** Share with someone the heart you made in Sabbath School. (Or cut out a red paper heart and write the memory verse on it.) Tell them about Moses' last talk with the Israelites. If you really mean it, tell someone that you want to give your heart to Jesus, that you want to obey His law. Then write your name here.

\_\_\_\_\_

## S U N D A Y

**READ** During worship today read and discuss Deuteronomy 4:15-31. Who is speaking? What message does he give the Israelites? Is this a message for God's people today?

**DO** Play "Famous Last Words." Think of a compound word (two words together that make a new word, such as *sunshine*). Say the first part of the word. Others are to think of a word to add to it to make a compound word. (More than one word might go with it.)

**PRAY** Thank God for the gift of language.

## M O N D A Y

**READ** Read and discuss Deuteronomy 4:32-40 with your family. Look again at verse 33. What incident is Moses talking about? Why were the people shown these things? (See verse 35.) Does God want us to know these things today? How do you know?

**DO** Learn about obedience school for dogs. (Hint: see an encyclopedia or library book.) How is training a dog like the way your parents teach you?

**PRAY** Ask God to help you always to be obedient.

Angels buried Moses when he died, but Jesus raised him soon and took him to heaven.



## W E D N E S D A Y

**READ** Read Deuteronomy 28:1-14 together with your family. Name five blessings that will come to those who obey the Lord. Are those blessings for us today?

**DO** Ask your family to tell how they have obeyed God today. With your family, make a list of ways you can worship God by the way you live.

**SING** If you really mean it, sing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 119). Then pray that God will help you always to remember Him.

## T U E S D A Y

**READ** Read and discuss Deuteronomy 6 with your family. What are parents supposed to do? Why? What happens when people "forget the Lord"?

**SING** Sing "Trust and Obey" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 113). Then pray that your family will always remember to trust God.



# THURSDAY

**READ** For family worship today read and discuss Deuteronomy 28:15-20. What does Moses say could happen to the Israelites? Why would it happen?

**DO** Play a game with your family where one person asks the others to do something and then rewards them for doing it (such as giving a peanut as a reward). Talk with your family about how it felt to obey quickly.



# FRIDAY

**READ** Read Deuteronomy 34:1-8 with your family. How old was Moses at this time? Review the last two paragraphs of your Bible story.

Where is Moses now? What would you like to ask him when you see him? Make a list of questions and share it with your family.

**READ** Read the Song of Moses in Deuteronomy 32.

**PRAY** Pray that your family will be among those who will see Jesus and Moses in heaven.

## Words to Remember

# PUZZLE

**Directions:** Write the answers to questions from this week's lesson on the lines. Letters in the vertical box spell out the name of the man God appointed to lead the Israelites for 40 years.

1. What is the name of the place from which Moses saw the promised land?
2. Who gives great blessings?
3. What is another word for obeying and praising God?
4. In which country were the Israelites held as slaves?
5. What is another name for God's rules?

