

God Leads the Way

Deuteronomy 31-34; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 469-480

Have you ever helped plan a surprise party? Trying to surprise everyone is great fun. Getting everything ready is even more fun. But sometimes there is not enough time to do everything. Or worse yet, you may have to go away with your family and you miss the party. Something like that happened to Moses at the end of his life.

With God's leading, Moses had safely guided the children of Israel for many years. They had traveled all the way from Egypt to the edge of the Promised Land. Now they were about to enter the land. Moses wanted to go with them. But God told Moses he could not. He must tell his people goodbye.

So Moses wrote a message for them. It's the Bible book of Deuteronomy today. In it he reminded the people of all the wonderful things God had done for them. He reminded them that God still had a wonderful plan for their lives. "Remember God and worship Him, and you will live long," Moses wrote. "But if your heart turns away and you worship other gods, you will not live long in the land."

Moses put down his pen at last and went

out to speak to the people. "I am 120 years old," he told them. "I am no longer able to be your leader. The Lord has told me that I will not cross the Jordan. I will not go into Canaan."

The people looked at one another in dismay. Surely Moses didn't mean it! What would happen to them without him? What would they do?



"The Lord your God will go before you. Joshua will be your leader as the Lord has said," Moses went on. "Be determined and confident. Do not be afraid."

The Message

Thanks to God, we will live with Him and worship Him forever.

Memory Verse

“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

(John 14:3, NIV).

Then Moses called Joshua to stand beside him. He placed his hands on Joshua. “You are the one who will lead these people into Canaan. You will see them live in the land that the Lord promised,” he said. “The Lord Himself will lead you and be with you. He will not fail you or leave you. So do not lose courage or be afraid.”

Then Moses turned to the priests. He gave them the copy of the law that God had told him to write—the Ten Commandments. The priests must learn it well. “At the end of every seven years,” he said, “read this law aloud at the Feast of Tabernacles. Read it so everyone may hear it and remember to worship God.”

Finally, Moses gave Joshua a copy of a beautiful song that God had helped him write. “Help the people learn this song,” Moses said. “It will remind them to serve God only.” The people listened quietly as Moses read it.

Then Moses spoke his last words to the children of Israel. “Be sure to obey the commands that I have given you today!” he pleaded. “Repeat them to your children, so they may faithfully obey God’s teachings. These are not empty words; they are your very life.”

On that same day the Lord told Moses to climb Mount Nebo. And there, the Lord spent special time encouraging Moses. Just before Moses died, God showed him the Promised Land. The Bible says that Moses saw all the land. All the way to the northern-most town of Dan. All the way west to the sea. And south through what would become the land of Judah.

Moses died on the mountain. He died peacefully as the Lord had said he would.

But Moses did not stay in the grave. Soon God raised him up and took him to live with Him in heaven forever. Moses is there today.

There was never another prophet in Israel like Moses. God had a plan for him. And He has a plan for us. THANKS TO GOD, WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM AND WORSHIP HIM FOREVER!

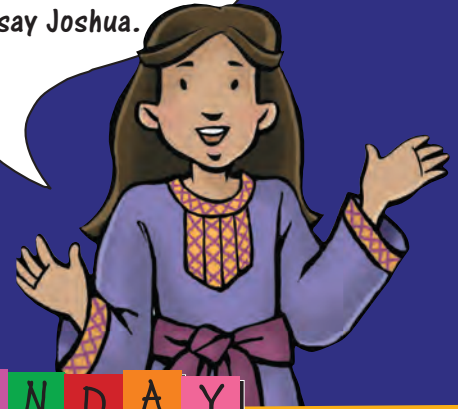


S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go to the top of a high hill with your family and read your lesson story. Then look out from the hill. Make believe that the Promised Land is in the distance. Try to imagine how Moses felt. He was so near, but could not go into Canaan. Discuss: Do you wish that you were in heaven now? How do you feel about going there?

READ Read John 14:1-3 together.

The name Joshua means "Jehovah is salvation." The name Jesus is the way the Greeks say Joshua.



S U N D A Y

DRAW For family worship, give everyone paper and pencil. Ask everyone to draw a face to show how they would feel if they had just been given a million dollars. Then draw another face to show how they would feel if they had just found out that they were moving next week.

READ Read the memory verse together. Which face shows how you feel about Jesus' promise? Write your memory verse near that face. Tell Jesus how excited you are, and thank Him!

M O N D A Y

READ For family worship, read Deuteronomy 30:15-19 together. Talk about who really does offer you life. Who offers you death? Whom do you choose to worship?

DO Find Mount Nebo on a Bible map. What mountains are nearest to your home? How high are they?

SING Sing "For God So Loved the World" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 26). Tell God now that you love Him too. Thank Him for the promise of a fantastic, forever life with Him!

DO Teach your memory verse to your family.

T U E S D A Y

READ What if you make some wrong choices that keep you from worshiping God? Will God forgive you? With your family, read Deuteronomy 30:2, 3, 9, and 10. What other promises did God make to Israel? Read verses 4, 5. What do these verses mean to you? Ask God to help you make right choices today.

DO Make a cutout of a train. Write on it: "I choose to stay on track—the track to heaven!" Put it where you will see it every morning.

DO Say your memory verse to an adult.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ With your family, read Deuteronomy 34. How was Moses like or unlike people today who are 100 years old? Read together Matthew 17:1-5; Mark 9:1-8; and Luke 9:28-36. Where is Moses now? How do you know?

DO Say your memory verse together, then sing "Jesus Is Coming Again" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 92). Ask God to help you be ready when Jesus comes again.

T H U R S D A Y

READ During worship today read Revelation 21:10-12, 18-21 and Revelation 22:1-5. Talk about heaven and tell what you want to see and do there.

THINK How long does God want you to live with Him? Unscramble this word and write it on the lines:

E E R V R O F _____

God must really love you!

DO Say your memory verse and thank God for making a place in heaven for you.

F R I D A Y

READ During family worship, talk about Sabbath in heaven. Read Isaiah 66:22, 23 together. Then talk about some things you want to do with Jesus on Sabbath. Act out one of those things and let your family guess what it is.

DRAW Draw a picture of heaven. Write your memory verse in the picture. On the back of your picture, list all the people you want to see there. Pray for each person on your list.

SING Sing "When He Cometh" (Sing for Joy, No. 93).

Marching Orders Match

PUZZLE

Directions: The lesson says that Moses gave the people five things to help them cross the Jordan. Draw a line from an item in column 1 to the correct definition in column 2.

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| God as Protector | To remind them to serve God only |
| Song | Rod |
| Leader | Will not fail you or abandon you |
| Symbol of Moses' Leadership | Read every seven years |
| The Law | Joshua |