

## Moses' Farewell Deuteronomy 31-34

### Instructions

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

### Tell the Bible Story

Moses was old, and he knew he would not enter the promised land. So Moses gave the Israelites a message before they went into the land of Canaan. Moses told the people he could not lead them into the promised land, but the Lord would get them there. God would go before them and defeat their enemies. Moses explained that Joshua would be their new leader. Moses assured the people that they didn't need to be afraid. God would be with them and would not leave them.

Then Moses wrote down God's law and gave it to the priests. He told the priests to read the law to the people every seven years. This way, the people would listen, remember, and follow the law, and they could teach it to their children. The priests put the law with the ark of the covenant.

God told Moses and Joshua to go to the tabernacle. The Lord appeared in a thick cloud and made Joshua the Israelites' new leader. "Be strong and courageous," God said to Joshua. "You will bring the Israelites into the promised land, and I will be with you."

God told Moses to write down a song and teach it to the Israelites.

The song warned the Israelites that if they disobeyed God, disaster would come to them. So Moses wrote down the song and read it to the Israelites so they would remember God's words. Moses said, "These words are your life."

Finally, Moses blessed all of the tribes of Israel and praised God. "How happy are you, Israel!" Moses said. "Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord? He protects you and fights for you. Your enemies will be afraid, and you will defeat them."

Then Moses went to the top of a mountain where he could see the promised land across the Jordan River. Moses died there and was buried, and the Israelites wept. Then the people turned to Joshua, their new leader who would take them into the land God promised.

*Christ Connection: Moses was a good leader for God's people. No other prophet in Israel was like Moses—until Jesus came. The Bible says Jesus deserves more glory than Moses. Jesus is our perfect leader. He died and was raised so that Moses and every believer in all of time can enter the promised land of God's kingdom.*

#### Discussion & Bible Skills - Older

Bibles to Deuteronomy 31. Remind kids that today's Bible story comes from Deuteronomy 31–34. Explain that Deuteronomy was written by Moses and is the last of the five books called the Law.

Challenge kids to identify the four books that come before Deuteronomy (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers) and the book that comes after it (Joshua).

SAY • The Israelites were getting ready to go into the promised land. Moses reminded the people to keep God's covenant, and then Moses died. God chose Joshua to lead the people.

Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did Moses say God would do for the Israelites?
  - *Guide kids to recall that Moses said God would protect and fight for Israel. With His help, they would defeat their enemies.*
2. Why is it important to remember God's Word?
  - *Guide kids to discuss that by spending time in God's Word, we learn and remember what is true about God and about ourselves. When we forget the truth, we turn away from God and live for ourselves. Scripture gives us hope and compels us to live for Christ.*
3. What do you think is the most important thing you can do in your life?
  - *Allow kids to discuss what they hope to accomplish. Kids might talk about being kind or becoming famous, but guide them toward the fact that the most important thing we can do is commit our lives to Jesus and tell others about Him. Our life on earth is temporary, but the work we do for Jesus lasts forever.*

#### Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them use the chapter numbers to find Deuteronomy 31–34. Explain that Deuteronomy is the last book of the law.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did Moses tell the people in his farewell?
  - *(Be strong and courageous. God will go ahead of you. God will defeat your enemies for you. Do not be afraid, and so forth; Deut. 31:3-6)*
2. Whom did God choose to lead the people after Moses?
  - *(Joshua, Deut. 31:7-8)*
3. What did Moses warn would happen if the people stopped loving and obeying God?
  - *(Disaster would come on them; Deut. 31:29; 32:23)*
4. Why did Moses tell the people to be strong and courageous?

- *Guide kids to discuss that following God is not always easy. Sometimes we face scary or difficult situations. We are often tempted to distrust God or turn away from Him to do things our own way. But God's ways are always best. It takes strength and courage to obey God.*
- 5. What are some things we may do today that require strength and courage?
  - *Guide kids to talk about the difficulty of obeying God even today. We may not fight physical battles, but spiritual warfare still happens all around us. We need strength and courage to obey God just as the Israelites did.*
- 6. What are ways God helps us fight spiritual battles?
  - *Guide kids to discuss Jesus' taking our punishment. He sent the Holy Spirit to live in us and guide us. We also have God's Word to learn from, and we can pray to God for help. We also have other believers who comfort and encourage us or point us to God when we are wrong.*

SAY • Moses reminded the people to keep God's covenant (promise). Jesus kept God's covenant perfectly and died for us. He sent the Holy Spirit to help us.