

# Moses' Farewell

**Bible Passage:** Deuteronomy 31-34

**Key Passage:** <sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

**Bottom Line:** I can always turn to God for strength and courage to do what is right.

**Big Picture Question:** What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.

**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.*

## **LEADERNOTES:**

### CONTEXT

Decades had passed since God used Moses to rescue the Israelites from slavery and lead them toward the promised land. The Israelites had not trusted God then and had refused to enter the land.

After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, the Israelites were once again at the edge of the promised land. But this time, it was a whole new generation of Israelites—many of whom had not even been born when the people left Egypt and came to this land the first time. Their leader, Moses, was 120 years old.

Moses wrote the Book of Deuteronomy to tell the people all that God had done for them and to repeat the laws and instructions that God had given His people. At the end of the book, God told Moses that Moses would soon die, never setting foot in the promised land because of his disobedience. (See Num. 20:12.) Instead, God chose Joshua to lead Israel into the land.

God also revealed to Moses that even though Israel had just endured 40 years of punishment for not trusting Him, the people would abandon God again. Having the laws written out would not be enough to keep the Israelites from breaking their covenant with God. Moses emphasized that obedience would lead to blessing and life, but disobedience would lead to curses—namely, exile from the land.

Moses went up to a mountain where he could see the land that God had promised to give to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Then Moses died there.

Moses wasn't perfect, but he 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 died and was raised so that Moses and every believer in all of time can enter the promised land of God's kingdom.

## TEACHING FOCUS (Deuteronomy 31-34)

We see God's love clearly in the one story found throughout the Bible. Three weeks ago, we learned that **Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give His people the promised land**, even when everyone else sinned by doubting God's goodness and love. Then, when God's people believed lies about Him and said untrue things about Him, He sent snakes to punish them. However, He also provided the way to be saved from the snakes. **God told His people to look at the bronze snake to be healed.** When Balak made plans to go against God by cursing God's people, God turned those plans around completely. **God commanded Balaam to bless His people.** This week we will learn about the last things Moses told the Israelites before he died. Our story is called "Moses' Farewell."

The people were finally ready to enter the land God had promised, but they were still sinners moving into land inhabited by other nations. Those nations had false gods and sinful practices. **What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God or His commands.**

When surrounded by these other sinful nations, God's people might get distracted from the truth of God and wander away from Him into sin. In fact, God knew they would! That's why Moses kept warning them to be strong and courageous. Moses knew that disobeying God would lead to disaster. So **Moses reminded the people to keep God's covenant.**

## TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- **Moses told Joshua to be strong and courageous.**
- **It takes strength and courage to trust God and to live for Him.**
- **Strength and courage is needed every day to live for Jesus.**
- **BL: I can always turn to God for strength and courage to do what is right.**

## Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

### Relay Stones

**What you Need:** 4 foam bowls, 2 plastic spoons, 24 "rocks"

#### What You Do:

- Form 2 teams.
- Line up teams at one end of the room.
- Place an empty bowl in front of each team.
- Place 2 bowls, each filled with 12 "Stones" at the other end of the room.
- Give the first child in each line a spoon.
- When you say go, direct her to walk to her team's bowl at the other end of the room, put a stone on her spoon, walk the stone on the spoon, back to her team's empty bowl, and drop it in.
- Then give the spoon to the next child in line.

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- Guide preschoolers to continue until all 12 of their team's stones are in their bowl.
- The team that moves all their stones first wins.
- Encourage preschoolers to cheer on their team as they wait for their turn.
- If teams doesn't work best, you could just have one long line of kids.

**What You Say:**

"God used to stones to help His people remember Him and all that He did to get them to the promised land. We will spend the next weeks learning about this journey to the promised land. I pray that we all see God's power and learn to trust and obey Him more everyday.

**Worship Time**

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

**Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)**

**What You Say:** "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible today."

**Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**Bible Story**

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:** Place a bookmark at Deuteronomy 31-34 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

**What You Say:** "The Bible is the most important book. God talks to us by using His words in the Bible. Everything God says is true. Our Bible Story is from Deuteronomy, the fifth book of the Bible.

**PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO**

**Talk about the Bible Story:**

The Israelites walked in the wilderness for 40 years. Moses was very old, and he had a message for the people. Moses said, "I cannot go into the promised land. The LORD will go before you, and God chose Joshua to lead you. God will not leave you." Then Moses wrote down God's rules. Moses told the people to be careful to obey God's words and teach them to their children. "These words are your life," Moses said. Moses blessed all of the tribes of Israel, and he praised God. Then God took Moses to the top of the mountain so he could see the beautiful land that God had promised His people. Then Moses died, and God buried him.

### **Learn the Big Picture Question**

**What You Say:** Moses wanted the people to listen to God's law. He wanted them to learn it, teach it to their children, and obey it so they would not sin. What does it mean to sin? To sin is to go against God and His commands.

### **Practice the Memory Verse**

Open your Bible to Proverbs 3:5-6. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

**What You Say:** " Moses wrote down a song and taught it to the people. He wanted the people to remember God's words. "

Transition to small group.

## **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

### **1. Mother's Day Craft**

**What you Need:** "Mother's Day Printable" on cardstock (1 per kid), stamp pads, baby wipes

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a Mother's Day Printable.
- Ask them to use their fingers to fill in the wreath for mom.
- Write their name on the paper.
- Use the baby wipes to wipe off the prints.
- Read the paper to the kids and show them how to give it to mom.

**What You Say:** "God told Moses to write down a song and teach it to the people. Moses wrote down the song and read it to the Israelites so they would remember God's words. Take this paper to mom so she and you can remember God's promises to you. Just like Moses wanted the people to obey God's commands and not sin against God, we pray that you and your family are finding ways to build your life to honor God by following God's commands to believe, love and follow Him with your whole life. **What does it mean to sin? To sin is to go against God and His commands."**

### **2. Practice signing the Memory Verse**

**What you need:** Memory Verse Poster

**What You Do:**

- Show the poster to the kids
- As you say the words point to them on the poster
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include "**Trust in the Lord** (ASL sign – like pulling a rope) **with all your heart** (point to heart) **and lean not on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways submit to him** (ASL

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sign for all- draw a circle around your hand), **and he will make your paths straight** (hold hands up like making a road). **Proverbs 3:5-6**  
**What You Say:** Moses wrote down a song and taught it to the people. He wanted the people to remember God's words. Our memory verse can help us remember to trust God more than we trust our thoughts or understanding.

**Pray and Dismiss:**

**What You need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Pray- " God, You know what is best for us. You lead us when we trust You. Apart from You, we are trapped in sin and cannot be saved. Thank You for sending Jesus. Help us trust You and follow You. We know that through believing in Jesus for life, we have eternal life, and learn to love You and obey You out of that love. Amen.

**What You Say:** Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home the Mother's Day Craft and tell families, we are talking about sin and that we can trust and obey God.