



# MOSAIC Gospel Project

## Volume 3, Unit 7, Lesson 4: Moses' Farewell

**Bible Passage:** Deuteronomy 31-34

### Personal Preparation

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 he 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 the past and future can enter the promised land of God's kingdom.

As you prepare to teach the class, reflect on how Moses points us towards our need for Jesus. Thank God for revealing his law through Moses, and thank him for fulfilling the law in Christ. Pray that the individuals would look to Christ as the ultimate example of greatness.

### Memory Verse

Begin the lesson by sharing the memory verse with the group. This is the last week with this memory verse.

#### Proverbs 3:5-6

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”*

### Points of Emphasis

1. Moses reminded the people to keep God's covenant.
2. To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and his commands.

### Activity #1

Lead the group to begin working on the activity sheet. Feel free to let them continue working as you teach the lesson.

## Video

God had called Moses to rescue the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and lead them to the land of Canaan. Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give his people the promised land, but the rest of the Israelites did not. They refused to go in.

So God made them wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Now, the Israelites were back at the edge of the promised land. The people who refused to trust God had died, and a new generation had grown up. For 40 years, Moses had led the people; but because Moses had disobeyed God, he was not allowed to enter the promised land. Today's Bible story is called "Moses' Farewell." It is about the message Moses gave to the Israelites as they got ready to enter the promised land without him.

Play the video for the lesson title "Moses' Farewell."

## Bible Lesson

Did you notice that phrase that God said to Joshua? "Be strong and courageous." That's a phrase that actually comes up quite a bit in this part of the Israelites' history. God knew that they were about to face some difficult and scary situations, not to mention all the temptations around them to sin.

The people were finally ready to enter the land God had promised, but they were still sinners moving into land inhabited by other nations. 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.

## Activity #2

Guide the group to finish working on the activity sheet. Review the memory verse with the group. Let the individuals practice what they have learned. Encourage them to write the verse using the Velcro pictures. This is the last week with this memory verse.

## Christ Connection

We cannot keep God's covenant. The law shows us what perfect obedience looks like, but we are unable to obey perfectly, no matter how many reminders Moses wrote down.

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 the past and future can enter the promised land of God's kingdom.

Play the Gospel Presentation video. Let the individuals share their thoughts after watching the video, and answer any questions that they might have about the Gospel.

## Review Questions

*(Optional: Watch the Questions from Kids (QFK) video as part of the discussion on Moses' farewell. Today's episode asks what happens when people die.)*

Group A

Early Learner

Encourage the individuals to point to the pictures provided or to draw in order to answer these questions.

1. **Point to who told the Israelites to be strong and courageous because God was with them.** Moses
2. **Point to who God chose to lead the people after Moses.** Joshua

3. **Point to who Moses told the Israelites to keep loving and obeying.** God
4. **Point to who promised to be with Israelites in the promised land.** God

#### Group B

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.
2. **Whom did God choose to lead the people after Moses?** Joshua
3. **What did Moses warn would happen if the people stopped loving and obeying God?** Disaster would come on them.
4. **Why did Moses tell the people to be strong and courageous?** 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 the individuals 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 the group 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.

#### Group C

1. **What did Moses say God would do for the Israelites?** 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?** By spending time with 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?** 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.

#### Group D

##### Advanced Learner

1. **What does this story teach us about God?** Even though God's people had disobeyed God, God kept his promise to give the promised land to the family of Israel. God provides leaders to help us and encourage us to follow God.
2. **What did Moses want God's people to remember?** Moses encouraged the Israelites. He told them that God would be with them, and he would fight for them. Moses reminded the people to keep God's covenant. Moses taught the people a song and told them to remember God's words.
3. **What do you think happens after someone dies?**
4. **How can you live for God's glory?**

#### Prayer

**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 Jesus, we can have eternal life, and learn to love you and obey you out of that love. Amen.**

