

Unit 6, Session 4: Moses' Fairwell

Big Picture Question: Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us. He loves us, and His plans are good.

Memory Verse: Romans 8:28 – And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Christ Connection: Moses led God's people faithfully but died unable to bring them into the Promised Land. Jesus leads us in perfect faithfulness. He died so that all who place their faith in Him will join Him in the new heaven and earth.

Bible Passage: Deuteronomy 31-34

Find the passages together in your Bibles and read through them together. You could also read the paraphrase of all these passages below in blue. For younger kids, you may want to just read the bolded portions.

In the final passages of Deuteronomy, after God renewed His covenant with the Israelites and detailed all its blessings and curses (Dt 29-30), Moses prepared the people to enter the promised land. Though he'd led the people for decades, he would not be joining them in the next phase of their journey (31:2). Though this news might have come as a shock to the Israelites, Moses reassures them that God will still go with them and before them into the land. He would prepare the way as they conquered the pagan peoples that lived in Canaan (31:3-6). The people wouldn't have to go without a leader, for the Lord had called Joshua to take Moses' place (Dt 31:14-23). The people would still be challenging to lead and fail to keep the law that God gave to Moses, but He would not abandon them (31:23-30).

Moses was a great leader, but he was not a perfect man. His anger issues resulted in murder and exile (Ex 2:11-22). His disobedience to God's command to speak to a rock in order to bring forth water resulted in his being barred from entering the promised land (Num 20:2-13). Joshua would be a great leader, too. He was even given the same spirit as Moses to lead the people (Dt 34:9). However, it is clear that something, or someone, more would be needed to bring the Israelites fully into God's promised land. The Israelites were a stubborn, stiff-necked people, who complained and feared more often than they praised and trusted God. Moses knew they would struggle to follow the law the Lord had given, and he predicted that evil would eventually befall them because they would eventually do what was evil and provoke the Lord (31:29). We can praise God, however, that this is not where the story ends. It's true, there are many years of hardship ahead of the Israelites from this point in the story, and there will be many more failures and disobedience before the Lord finally sends someone to fix all that is broken. But one day a prophet greater than Moses would come and fulfill all the promises God made to his people—his name is Jesus, and He is here (Heb 3:3).

When Moses was 120 years old, he gathered the Israelites together. He told them, "I can no longer act as your leader. God has told me that I will not go with you into the promised land. The Lord will cross ahead of you. He destroy the nations, and you will drive them out. Joshua will be your leader. Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid, because the Lord will go with you and will not leave you.

Moses wrote down all God's laws and gave it to the priests. He said, "Take this book of the law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord. Be careful not to disobey God after I am dead as you have the past. I know you will do evil in the Lord's sight and disaster will come to you."

Before his death, Moses blessed the people. He gave a special blessing to each one of the twelve tribes of Israel. **To all of Israel, he said this:**

**"There is no one like God,
Who rides the clouds to help you.
He drives out the enemy before you.
How happy you are, Israel!
Who is like you,
A people saved by the Lord?
He is the shield that protects you.
He is the sword you fight with.
Your enemies will be defeated."**

Then Moses went up to the top of Mount Nebo. From this mountain, he could see the land God had promised. **Moses the servant of the Lord died there,** just as the Lord had said to Moses. **He would lead them into the Promised Land.**

If you or your child have questions about what it looks like to follow Jesus in salvation or baptism, Pastor Sam would love to talk with you! Please feel free to contact him at ssiever@lenexabaptist.com.