Use Week of:

Unit 7 • Session 4
Moses' Farewell

BIBLE PASSAGE:
Deuteronomy 31–34

STORY POINT:
Moses reminded the people to keep God's covenant.

KEY PASSAGE:
Proverbs 3:5-6

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.

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Additional resources are available at *gospelproject.com*. For free training and session-by-session help, visit *www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject*.

LEADER Bible Study

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.

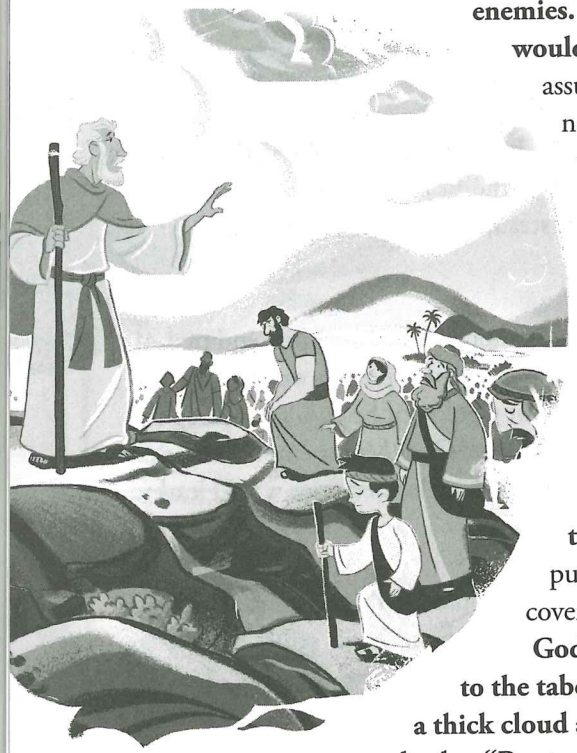
Moses wasn't perfect, but he was a good leader for God's people. No other prophet in Israel was like Moses—until Jesus came. The Bible says Jesus deserves more glory than Moses. Jesus died and was raised so that Moses and every believer in all of time can enter the promised land of God's kingdom.

The BIBLE Story

Moses' Farewell

Deuteronomy 31–34

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.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Role play:** Wear Bible times clothing and portray Moses as you tell the story. Address the kids as if they are the Israelites.
- **Display art:** As you tell the story, show the Bible story picture and past Bible story pictures featuring Moses.

INTRODUCE the Story

SESSION TITLE: Moses' Farewell
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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.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to think about a time they said goodbye to someone. Did they know if they would see that person the next day or week? Have they ever said goodbye for a long time, such as moving away?

SAY • Saying goodbye can be sad. Today we will hear about a time Moses—the man God chose to lead His people for many years—said goodbye to them. What do you think Moses might have told them?

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Born to Lead" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the "Born to Lead" activity page. Instruct kids to use the space provided to draw a picture of what they imagine a good leader looks like.

SAY • Moses was a good leader, but he was not perfect. When Moses disobeyed God in front of the people, God decided that Moses would not get to go with the people into the promised land. Today we will hear some of the last things Moses said to God's people before he died.

Session starter (10 minutes)

- "Eye Chart" printable
- poster board (optional)
- marker (optional)
- tape

OPTION 1: Seen from afar

Print a copy of the "Eye Chart" or make one yourself using poster board and a marker. Start at the top by writing one or two letters very large, such as *E* or *T*. Below that, write three or four letters, slightly smaller, such as *F, P, Q,* or *Z*. Continue writing other letters in this way, increasing the number and decreasing the size on each subsequent row.

Hang the eye chart on a wall and tape a line about 10 feet away from the chart. Instruct kids to take turns standing on the tape line, covering one eye, and seeing how many of the letters they can read. Can they do as well with their other eye?

SAY • It's hard to see things from far away. Today we will hear about something Moses had to view from far away. God didn't allow him to see it up close.

LOW PREP

OPTION 2: Do as I do

Help the kids form pairs. Instruct the kids to take turns being the leader. The kids will face one another, and the leader in each pair will make movements or silly faces while her partner tries to mimic her movements. Make sure the kids switch back and forth.

SAY • Leading by example is often a great strategy for helping others. Today we will learn about Moses' final instructions to God's people before he died. After this, they couldn't directly follow Moses' example, so they'd have to remember his words to them from God.

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story

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Countdown

- countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire

[Leader enters wearing scrubs.]

LEADER • Hey, friends. Welcome back to the hospital. There are many things I love about being a nurse at a teaching hospital, but one thing that I don't like is saying goodbye.

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

Because we are a teaching hospital, we get a lot of students who come through to learn to be a doctor or a nurse, but when they finish their school, they get jobs in other places. It makes perfect sense because we would run out of room for new students if all the old students stayed here forever to keep working. Even so, it is sad to say goodbye to friends. Though I'll miss my old friends who move on, the nice thing is that I'll still get to make new friends when the next batch of nursing students comes along!

You know, in a way it reminds me of our Bible story this week. Moses had disobeyed God, and God told him that he would not get to enter the promised land. So Moses had to say goodbye to the people of Israel. They were ready to move on and enter the promised land! I'll tell you all about it.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • We've been learning a lot about God's people in the wilderness. We've been talking specifically about sin. Can anyone remember our big picture question? [*Allow responses.*] That's right! ***What does it mean to sin?*** And the answer? [*Allow responses.*] Right again. ***To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God or His commands.*** That means that our sin problem includes what we do, but it goes much deeper than that. It's part of our broken human nature. Thankfully, God loves us even though we sin.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

- Giant Timeline

LEADER • 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."

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

- Bibles
- "Moses' Farewell" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

Open your Bible to Deuteronomy 31–34. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Moses' Farewell."

LEADER • 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. 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.**

Christ connection

LEADER • But the thing is, 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 all of time can enter the promised land of God's kingdom.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

- "Unit 7, Session 4" Questions from Kids Video

Show the "Unit 7, Session 4" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about what happens to people who have died. Guide them to discuss the way to have eternal life with God. How can we live for God's glory?

Missions moment (3 minutes)

- "OneCup (Part 2)" missions video

Play the "OneCup (Part 2)" missions video.

LEADER • Remember Morgan Grace? She and her team went to East Asia to deliver water filters to people in remote villages. This also gave the team an opportunity to share the gospel and encourage other Christians there. In one village, Morgan Grace met a girl named Jun (JOON). God used the love of other believers in Jesus Christ to change Jun's life. Now Jun trusted in Jesus and gained life forever in God's kingdom. When we love people and tell them about Jesus, we are part of God's mission whether we go far away or stay in our own hometowns!

Key passage (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- "Trust!" song

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Proverbs 3:5-6. Then sing "Trust!"

LEADER • God is good, and He loves us. He knows what is best for us, and when we trust Him, He will lead us to where He wants us to be. Our key passage reminds us that relying on ourselves is foolish; more than that, it's sin! We lead ourselves away from God, but the Holy Spirit helps us love God and obey Him.

Sing (4 minutes)

- "Walking by Your Side" song

LEADER • Let's sing praises to God.

Sing together "Walking by Your Side."

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • 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.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel.* Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story

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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.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- craft sticks
- marker
- "Trust!" song (optional)

Invite volunteers to say the key passage from memory. Thank kids for their efforts and encourage any who get stuck. Write each word or phrase of the key passage on a separate craft stick. If you have a larger group, you may wish to make more than one set. Divide the set of craft sticks among the kids and challenge the kids to put the craft sticks in order to form the key passage. Then read the verse a few times and sing the key passage song.

SAY • Our key passage was written many years after the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness, but the message was true for the Israelites then just as it is true for us today. We trust God because His ways are perfect. Trusting in ourselves will lead us further away from God into sin. Only God can save us from sin through Jesus and lead us to life.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster

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. Briefly discuss Bible divisions and how we use them to organize the Bible.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

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.** Jesus kept God's covenant perfectly and died for us. He sent the Holy Spirit to help us.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

- bottle of water
- box of bandages
- socks
- granola bar
- Bible

OPTION 1: Meeting needs

Invite the kids to sit in a circle. Place a bottle of water, a box of bandages, socks, a granola bar, and a Bible in the center of the circle. Read descriptions of situations and challenge the kids to vote for an item from the middle of the circle to meet the need. If kids disagree, let them defend their choices and vote again.

Situations:

- A friend is hot and thirsty after doing a lot of physical work.
- Your sibling fell and scraped his or her knee.
- An elderly woman from your church suffers from cold feet at night.
- You pass a person in the street who asks for money to buy food.
- You know someone who doesn't know about Jesus.

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

SAY

- When we meet people's physical needs, it often opens the door for us to talk about their greater need: their spiritual need for Jesus.

  Morgan Grace met the physical needs of the people she met in East Asia by delivering water filters, and we can help meet physical needs too. That's a great way to live on mission and share Jesus' love.

LOW PREP

- index cards
- pen

OPTION 2: Strength and courage

Discuss with your kids what it means to be strong and courageous. Form groups of two or three kids. Give each group an index card with a scenario written on it, and invite the kids to make a short skit acting out what it would look like to be strong and courageous in that scenario. Encourage kids who may be shy.

Suggested scenarios:

- A kid at school is bullying another kid. If you get involved, the bully may pick on you.
- You and your sibling accidentally break something at home, but your parents didn't see it happen.
- A new kid at church doesn't know anyone yet.
- Your friend asks you to do something you don't feel good about doing.

SAY

- **Moses reminded the people to keep God's covenant.** It takes strength and courage to obey God. We cannot obey God using just our own human strength and courage. That's why God sent Jesus. Jesus obeyed God perfectly and died for our sin. When we believe in Jesus, He takes away our sin and gives us the Holy Spirit who fills us with strength and courage that come from God.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

Unit 8: Conquering the Land

Unit Description:

The Israelites needed to conquer the promised land, so God fought for them. Joshua led the people and encouraged them to be faithful to the one true God. Under Joshua's leadership, the people conquered the promised land and began to live in it. Joshua was a representation of Christ, leading the Israelites to victory in Canaan as Jesus leads us to victory in overcoming the world.

Key Passage:

Deuteronomy 31:8

Big Picture Question:

How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

Session 1:

Crossing the Jordan

Joshua 1–4

Story Point: God held back the Jordan River for His people to cross.

Session 2:

The Battle of Jericho

Joshua 2; 6

Story Point: God brought down the walls of Jericho.

Session 3:

Taking the Land

Joshua 10–11

Story Point: God made the sun stand still and gave His people victory.

Easter:

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26–28

Story Point: Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.

Crossing the Jordan

God held back the Jordan River for His people to cross.

The Battle of Jericho

God brought down the walls of Jericho.

Taking the Land

God made the sun stand still and gave His people victory.

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin and rose again to defeat death.