

TODAY'S STORY: Moses' Farewell Deuteronomy 31-34

TODAY'S BIG IDEA: Moses reminded the people to keep God's covenant.

MEMORY VERSE: Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

THE BIG QUESTION: What does it mean to sin? To sin is to go, do, think, or say anything that goes against God and His commands.

Connect

GATHER your family and as them to teams or 2 people. **TELL** them take turns being the leader. **ASK** them to face one another, and the leader in each pair will make movements or silly faces while the partner tries to mimic their movements.

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."

Review the Bible

SAY: Each day, we can grow our friendship with God by getting quiet and reading His Word—the Bible. We know that the Bible is God's word and God's word is always true.

READ from the Bible Deuteronomy 31:1-29 & 32:23

USE these scriptures as a reference to read this Bible story from your preschooler's Children's Bible or for younger elementary age kids you can read from their own NIV or Kids Bible, as well as a standard adult Bible. See links to recommended Bibles for all ages at battlecreekkids.com under resources.

SAY: Now that we've read God's Word, let's open up our hearts to God by thinking about what we read. Here are questions we can ask ourselves about this passage:

- 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*)
- Whom did God choose to lead the people after Moses? (*Joshua, Deut. 31:7-8*)
- 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.*
- What did Moses warn would happen if the people stopped loving and obeying God? (*Disaster would come on them; Deut. 31:29; 32:23*)
- 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.*
- *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.*

Memorize

Supplies Needed: Memory verse with motions,

READ the memory verse to the kids and do the motions for them. **Trust in the Lord** (*point to the sky*) **with all your heart.** (*cover heart with hands*) **Do not depend on your own understanding.** (*point to temples with index fingers*) **In all your ways remember him.** (*point in different directions*) **Then he will make your paths smooth and straight.** (*point both hands straight out from chest*) **Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV** (*open hand like book*)

SET OUT the memory verse page for everyone to use as a reference. **READ** the verse several times. **ASK** your child to repeat it with you. **TELL** your child you are going to read the verse and purposely mess a word up. **TELL** them to shout 'GOTCHA' when they hear the wrong word. **SAY:** Keep working this week to memorize our memory verse. God gives us His Word so we can know Him.

Let's Pray

Supplies Needed: paper or journal

REMINDE the kids that in the Bible story today, Moses wanted to remind the Israelites to keep God's covenant, His commands for their lives. **TALK** with your child about what it means to follow God's commands. **HELP** your child to see that we all sin. **EXPLAIN** that because of Jesus we can ask God to forgive our sins.

ASK your child to give you their prayer requests. **EXPLAIN** that a prayer request is something you tell another person so they can pray FOR you. **WRITE** down the requests. Then **GIVE** your child an opportunity to pray first before you close the prayer. **PRAY** this prayer or one like it. "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."

Craft

Supplies Needed: paper to paint on, watercolors, cotton balls

SET OUT the paper, watercolor paint, bowl with 3-4 tablespoons of water and cotton balls. You or your child can draw the outline of a mountain range across the page in pencil. **SHOW** your child how to dip the cotton balls in the water, the paint, and then dab on the mountain range outline.

SAY, "In today's Bible story, Moses went up to the top of a mountain where he could look across the Jordan River and see the promised land. What did Moses tell the people to get them ready to enter the land God would give them?"