

UNIT 6 | SESSION 4

Splash 3/30/25

MOSES' FAREWELL

DEUTERONOMY 31-34



KEY PASSAGE: Romans 8:28

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.

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.

STORY POINT: Moses blessed the Israelites and reminded them that God would be with them.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Moses was an esteemed Old Testament figure who led God’s people faithfully, though imperfectly, away from Egyptian slavery and toward the Promised Land. As we follow his biblical narrative to Deuteronomy 31, we read how Moses began his parting speech to those he shepherded for 40 years.

In what ways do we see how Jesus is the better Moses—the victorious leader who leads us into eternal triumph, united with Him forever?

In his farewell address, Moses acknowledged his role as provisional leader over the Israelites, humbled before the sovereignty of God. He recited all God promised to do for them: faithfully lead them, destroy their enemies, go with them, and never leave or abandon them. He called for the Israelites to be strong and courageous, not trusting in their own strength but in His almighty power. Though Moses was counted righteous by faith, he was not a sinless leader for the people of God.

Though Moses’ own failure to obey God kept him from entering the Promised Land, God, in His kindness, allowed Moses to see a glimpse of the land from atop Mount Nebo before he passed away. Moses blessed the Israelite people, reminding them of the faithful love of God over the tribes of Israel. When Moses died, the people wept for many days. Joshua, filled with the spirit of wisdom, was called by God to be Israel’s new leader, though he did not know the Lord face-to-face as Moses did.

As we read of Moses’ passing the baton to his successor, we must recognize the goodness of God in sending an even greater Leader to shepherd God’s people for all eternity: Jesus Christ. Though Moses sinned, Jesus was sinless. While Moses could not lead the Israelites into the land, Jesus fulfilled every requirement as a good and faithful servant of the Lord, therefore leading us into the eternal promise of His kingdom. Ask God to soften the hearts of boys and girls, that they may glean these great gospel truths as you faithfully teach this passage. May they see the faithful kindness of the loving God who desires to dwell with them not only today, but for all eternity.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- "Find the Differences" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- inflated balloons, 1 per kid
- timer



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video
- Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- "Moses' Farewell" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- "Unit 6, Session 4" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- "Bobgu Veela" missions video

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- "All Things Work Together (Romans 8:28)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- dry erase board and marker



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- watercolor paint
- paintbrushes, 1 per kid

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- dry erase board
- dry erase marker and eraser

Reflection and Prayer

- Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** 🗨️ Do you know someone who is a good leader? Why is he or she a good leader? 🗨️

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Find the Differences” activity page.

| **SAY** 🗨️ Today, we’ll see that a different leader came to take Moses place and lead the people into the Promised Land. 🗨️

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: KEEP IT UP

Provide each kid with an inflated balloon. Challenge kids to keep the balloon in the air for as long as possible. Tell kids that they can only touch their balloon. Time kids to see how long they can keep their balloons in the air.

Then pair each kid with a partner. Give each pair an inflated balloon and challenge them to keep it in the air for as long as they can. Time kids again. Kids who work together should be able to keep the balloon in the air longer than on their own.

SAY 🗨️ This challenge was easier when you had someone beside you to help you keep the balloon up. This reminds me of how God is always with His people, helping them as they face challenges. Today, we will learn that Moses would no longer be the leader of Israel as his time on earth was coming to an end. However, God would be with His people, and He would help them as they prepared to go into the Promised Land. 🗨️

OPTION 2: CHAIN REACTION



Instruct kids to form a large circle, stretching their arms out to ensure they have plenty of space. Choose one kid to be the leader. Explain that the leader will perform an action such as patting her head, doing jumping jacks, etc. The kid to the leader’s right must do the action. Continue to the right, with each kid performing the action one after the other. After the action reaches the last kid in the circle, direct kids to fall down to the ground. Repeat the activity, choosing a different leader each time.

SAY 🗨️ Following the leader is good when the person sets a good example. Today, we will see that Moses was a good leader but the time had come for him to be with God in heaven. Before he died, **MOSES BLESSED THE ISRAELITES AND REMINDED THEM THAT GOD WOULD BE WITH THEM.** Let’s see who God chose as the new leader of the Israelites. 🗨️





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

* Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I am so glad you are here. Today, we will read from the book of Deuteronomy about Moses’ farewell message to the people of Israel. The book of Deuteronomy is the fifth book in the Old Testament. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

In the wilderness, Moses disobeyed a command God gave him. As a consequence, Moses was unable to enter the Promised Land. But God would continue to take care of His people and provide a new leader. We’ll learn that **MOSES BLESSED THE ISRAELITES AND REMINDED THEM THAT GOD WOULD BE WITH THEM.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] Let’s pray for God to help us hear the truth of His Word: ‘Dear God, please help us see how much You love us and promise to be those who trust in Jesus. Please give us ears to hear from Your Word today. Amen.’ ”

*

worship

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

* Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

*

* I Thank God
* see a victory
* offering

SAY “ Why should we obey God? What is the answer we have learned? [Allow responses.] We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.

Moses’ time with the Israelites was ending, but he reminded them God had a good plan for His people. God has good plans for those who love Him and trust Him. Let’s say our big picture question and answer one more time: **Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.** ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ Let’s take a moment to review how God called Moses and used him for His good purposes. First, we saw that God saved Moses when he was a baby. Then after Moses sinned and fled to the wilderness, God called to Moses from a burning bush and commanded him to go to Egypt to rescue the Israelites from slavery.

God was with Moses and performed miracles until Pharaoh eventually let the people go. God spoke through Moses, and Moses gave the people God’s laws. The Lord also instructed Moses to build the tabernacle so God could dwell with His people. Even when the Israelites complained, doubted, and grumbled, God provided for Moses and helped him lead. Today, we’ll see how **MOSES BLESSED THE ISRAELITES AND REMINDED THEM THAT GOD WOULD BE WITH THEM.** ”



LEARN the Bible Story



1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Deuteronomy 31–34. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Moses’ Farewell.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

MOSES’ FAREWELL

“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 will 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 in 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 God had said. The Israelites cried for Moses for 30 days.

The Israelites turned to their new leader, Joshua. They would obey him, just as the Lord had said to Moses. He would lead them into the Promised Land.

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.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Emphasize it: Speak with emphasis when you describe God’s character throughout the story.

Repeat it: Invite kids to repeat “Be strong and courageous” after you say it in the story.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY ☞ Moses knew his time with the people was coming to an end. Who did Moses tell the Israelites their new leader would be? [Allow responses.] God told Moses that Joshua would be the Israelites' new leader. Moses encouraged the people to be strong and courageous, knowing the Lord would be with them wherever they go. Why is it important to remember that God is always with us? [Allow responses.] When we are afraid, it can be difficult to trust God. But God's Word tells us that He is faithful to us just as He was to the Israelite people. His plans are good, and we can trust that He will go with us even when we are afraid or unsure.

Moses also told the people to not forget God's laws as they had before. They were to place the laws next to the ark of the covenant. But God knew His people would not obey. Moses warned the people that their disobedience would bring consequences. Moses told the people about God's power to save His people, knowing they would not obey God. What did Moses say about God in his song? [Allow responses.] Moses said that God is perfect, just, faithful, righteous, and true. There is no one like God! God is a strong Rock for His people. God is powerful to save. God would not leave His people; He would be faithful to go before them in the new land.

MOSES BLESSED THE ISRAELITES AND REMINDED THEM THAT GOD WOULD BE WITH THEM. 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. ☞

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY ☞ Moses was a faithful leader to the Israelites, but he disobeyed God. We are also guilty of disobeying God's commands. God sent His son Jesus into the world to be the perfect Leader—the only One who can rescue us from sin and death. When we trust in Jesus, we are saved and promised eternal life with Him. ☞

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the "Unit 6, Session 4" Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Does God love everyone, or just the people who obey?
2. Only Jesus perfectly obeyed God. How did God show His love to sinners through Jesus?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes) *Optional*

SAY ☞ Trey Haun moved with his missionary parents to Ghana when he was just eight years old. His mom, Heidi Haun, is a surgeon at a hospital in Ghana, and his father, William, is a multimedia specialist. ☞



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Play the video. Tell kids that when Trey was 16 years old, he competed and won silver and bronze medals at the 2022 Unicycle Convention and World Championship. Trey was invited to make guest appearances all over Northern Ghana to explain how an American was representing Ghana at the international competition. Tell kids that Trey had a choice of whether to represent the country where he was born or the country where he has lived for most of his life. He chose to be the first representative from Ghana in this sport. Pray for the missionary work of Trey and his family as they share the good news with the people of Ghana. Thank God for all the ways He helps more people learn about His Son, Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)



Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Romans 8:28 together.

SAY 🗣️ Moses would not enter into the land of Canaan, but God still had a good plan for His people. God chose Joshua as their new leader, and God promised to be with His people. As we have been learning our key passage, we've been reminded that God has a good plan for us too when we trust in His Son, Jesus. 🙏

Begin by writing the key passage on a dry erase board. Explain that you will be breaking the key passage into smaller sections and adding claps in between. For example, "We know"...clap, clap..."that all"...clap, clap..."things work"...clap, clap. Continue this pattern until you have read the entire key passage.



Lead kids to sing "All Things Work Together (Romans 8:28)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY 🗣️ God, we know You had a good plan for the Israelites, and we thank You for having the perfect plan to save us from our sin. May we trust You to always go with us as we share Your love with others. In Jesus' name, amen. 🙏

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Deuteronomy 31. Tell kids that Deuteronomy is the fifth book of the Old Testament and is the final book Moses wrote. Share how the first five books of the Bible were all written by Moses and are also called the Law.

Consider pointing out the Mount Nebo (16) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Deuteronomy 31:3 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY 📖 *Moses was a faithful leader, but he didn't get to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. God Himself would cross over before His people and allow them to have the land. God is the only perfect Leader, and the Israelites could trust Him to deliver them from their enemies.*

We can trust God to faithfully lead us too. We do not need to be afraid because God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sin. Jesus faithfully leads us to what is best. We can have confidence in His good plans because His Word promises that Jesus leads us to eternal life. 📖

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 📖 *Will God ever leave His people? Why not?* 📖

Tell kids that God has promised to be with His people forever. Discuss how God's people are those who have placed their faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. Remind kids that God is trustworthy and His promises never fail.

SAY 📖 *Why do you think Moses said the people would keep disobeying God?* 📖

Discuss how God spoke to Moses and told Moses that the people would disobey. Remind kids that God knows all things, and He knows that all people are sinful. Share how God knew His people would need to repent, or turn away from their sin, and turn back to Him. Tell kids that God made the way for people to be able to obey His commands through faith in Jesus.

SAY 📖 *How is Jesus a better leader than Moses?* 📖

Discuss how Moses was a sinner and was not even able to enter the Promised Land. Tell kids that Jesus never sinned and only He can lead us to forgiveness, life, and into the kingdom of God. Encourage kids to follow Jesus and trust that He will always lead us to what is best.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: GOD IS WITH ME

Provide each kid with a piece of paper, watercolor paint, and a paintbrush. Remind kids how God promised to be with the Israelites and go with them into the Promised Land. Invite kids to paint a picture of how God is with them, especially during a time they might feel afraid or uncertain. Allow kids to share what they painted if they desire.

SAY “ Before he died, **MOSES BLESSED THE ISRAELITES AND REMINDED THEM THAT GOD WOULD BE WITH THEM.** The Israelites were about to go into a land filled with people who would fight against them. Moses wanted the people to remember that God would be with them no matter what, and He would fight for them. When we trust in Jesus, we have the promise that God will always be with us. God helps His people, and no matter what we face, we can trust Him. ”

OPTION 2: BIBLE WORD CHALLENGE



Use a dry erase board to play a game similar to hangman. Tell kids that they want to guess the correct word before you draw a person. Share how every incorrect letter will result in a part of a person being drawn such as a head, body, arm, and so on. Consider using the first five books of the Old Testament as the words kids will need to uncover. Additionally, you could use words to the story point, the big picture answer, or people in the Bible story. Consider forming kids into teams for friendly competition.

SAY “ We’ve made our way through five books of the Bible so far: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. As we’ve heard our Bible stories, we have continued to learn that God is faithful to His people. This means that even when His people disobey Him, God doesn’t give up on them and He doesn’t leave them. God’s plans for His people are good, and He was working through His people to one day bring the Savior into the world. Every story we read points us to Jesus and how only He can save us from our sin. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

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

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

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.