#### Lesson 6:

#### Moses Death/Joshua Becomes Leader

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Numbers 27:15-23; Deuteronomy 34; 3:23-28

MEMORY WORK:

Joshua 1:9

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

When I am in a new situation (new school, new neighborhood, etc.) or among people I don’t know, I may be tempted to do something I know is wrong, just to be accepted. I must remember that God expects the same of me no matter where I am or who I am with.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

God’s people, the Israelites, were ready to go into the Promised Land of Canaan, but their leader, Moses, couldn’t go with them. He had disobeyed God. [Remind the children that he hit the rock to get water rather than speaking to the rock as God had told him to do.] God chose someone very brave to take Moses’ place.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. As the Israelites got ready to cross the Jordan River to take the Promised Land, they had to fight the people who worshipped idols that already lived there. After winning important battles, they took over the land of Moab and camped there for several months. Moses used this time to remind the people of everything that God had done for them, and how important it would be to trust God completely in the weeks and months ahead.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**God’s Just**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=12&amp;article=1630)[**Destruction of the Canaanites**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=12&amp;article=1630)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion of why it was just for God to have the Israelites destroy the Canaanites.

1. In the book of **Deuteronomy**, Moses repeated many of the laws that God gave Israel (especially those in Exodus and Numbers). Moses also reminded the Israelites of the long 40-year journey that their parents and grandparents made from Egypt to Canaan. Moses knew that the Israelites would struggle with their faith in God and their willingness to obey Him. In Deuteronomy, Moses tried to prepare them for the temptations they would face, to encourage them to never give up on God, and to remind them that there is one, and only one, God.

**Deuteronomy** means “second law” or “second giving of the law.”

1. Most of the book of Deuteronomy is a long farewell speech Moses made to the Israelites. Because God would not let him go into the Promised Land, God chose Joshua to take Moses’ place. God chose Joshua because he trusted God completely. Remember that he had been one of the two spies who had encouraged the people to fight for the land of Canaan because God was with them. Moses brought Joshua before all the people and told them that God had chosen Joshua as his replacement. Moses laid his hands on Joshua as a sign that he was passing on to Joshua his job and authority (Numbers 27:22-23). Then Moses gave Joshua a message from God: “Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the sons of Israel into the land which I swore to them, and I will be with you” (Deuteronomy 31:23).
2. After more blessings and warnings to the people, Moses went to the top of Mount Nebo (or Pisgah) that was on the other side of the Jordan River from Jericho. He knew that as far as he could see, and even beyond, was the very special land that would soon be home to the millions of Israelites who had been following him for 40 years. Moses died there on top of Mount Nebo at the age of 120, and God buried him. Deuteronomy 34:7 says that his eyesight and strength were still undiminished when he died.
3. During the 40 years that the Israelites moved from place to place in the wilderness, Joshua had been Moses’ chief helper. After Moses’ death, Joshua became the leader of the Israelites, taking Moses’ place. God promised to be with Joshua and to help him in everything he did, just as He had been with Moses. God told Joshua never to be afraid of troubles that would come his way, but to be strong and courageous, trusting Him completely.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

**NOTE:** Deuteronomy 34:6 says that since God Himself buried Moses, “no one knows his grave to this day.” If the Israelites had known where Moses was buried, his grave may have become a shrine or idol, and a snare to the Israelites in the future. Perhaps this incident is why Jude 9 says that Michael the archangel argued with the devil over Moses’ body.

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces. Lesson 46 in the Betty Lukens Manual.

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File will be labeled “06” in the Visuals folder.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Do a review of the life of Moses – Using visuals from previous lessons, let students put events in chronological order.
* Mighty Footsteps Craft– Templates and detailed instructions are in the lesson file. Discuss how God told Joshua to be strong and courageous and that God was with him wherever he went. Trace the students feet onto cardstock. Cut around the feet and punch holes like the diagram. Precut the verse to be glued on the foot. Tie yarn in the holes so students can wear them like sandals.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

INTRODUCTION:

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. briefly (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

##### Obey Your Leaders Sheet– Master Copy is in Lesson File. Color and add O’s (paper reinforcement stickers) to the sheet. Discuss who our leaders are in the church today. Discuss how we should listen and follow the instructions of leaders (assuming the leaders are following God).



##### Play follow the leader

##### Coordinate with Sunday morning teacher for any activities not done or finished on Sunday

### Review Questions

1. Who did God choose to replace Moses to lead the Israelites?
   1. Joshua
2. Where did Moses die?
   1. Mount Nebo
3. Who buried Moses?
   1. God
4. What did God want the people to remember?
   1. They were God’s chosen people

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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