

General Church Education



Joshua Becomes the New Leader

Deuteronomy 31:1-3, 6-9, 23-27; 32:48-52

Lesson 20

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 3: The Lord Is Our Lawgiver

For ages 8-9 years

Joshua Becomes the New Leader

Deuteronomy 31:1-3, 6-9, 23-27; 32:48-52

For Parents and Teachers

Leadership of the Israelites now passes from Moses to Joshua. For forty years the people wandered in the wilderness. The lessons they learned there prepared them to enter the land under Joshua. Moses represents the Lord's truth. He is a lawgiver and strong leader. He pictures an intellectual grasp of the principles of heavenly life; a time when we obey *because we know we should*. But there was an incident when self-confidence, rather than reliance on the Lord, emerged. Moses angrily brought water from a rock with his rod. In the internal sense, Moses' death means that this attitude must die so we can enter heaven.

As we advance in regeneration, we need a strong leader. Moses and Joshua both stand for the Lord's truth with us. Moses is the truth leading us and Joshua is the truth fighting for us. Just as Joshua led the people in fighting the enemies in the Promised Land, so we need truth to help fight the enemies that keep us from entering into the life of heaven. Joshua represents a more living experience of the truth as we incorporate the Lord's laws into our lives. It is a time when we accept the value of the laws of order and use them to conquer our inner enemies.

Ideas for Children

- Like Joshua, we need to be strong and of good courage.
- It takes courage to do what is right.
- We need to go to the Word daily to learn how to be strong and courageous.

From the Writings

Joshua represents truth fighting against the falsity from interior evil. *Arcana Coelestia* 8621

Truths that inspire worship of the Lord should be derived from only from the Word; for in every single part the Word has life from God. When truths are derived from the self they have as their end in view rank and prominence over everyone in the world, and also earthly possessions and wealth above everyone. Consequently they hold within them self-love and love of the world. But truths derived from the Word have eternal life as their end in view; they hold within them love to the Lord and love towards the neighbor. Truths from the self are masters over the truths which come from God; for they employ the latter to add strength to themselves. But it ought to be the other way round, that is to say, the truths from God ought to be the masters, and those that are products of self-intelligence to be the servants. Products of the self or self-intelligence are called truths, but they are not really truths; they look like truths solely to outward appearances. See *Arcana Coelestia* 8941

Joshua Becomes the New Leader

Deuteronomy 31:1-3, 6-9, 23-27; 32:48-52

Words to Understand

dispossess—to take away someone’s possessions (things that belong to them)

forsake—to leave or abandon

dismayed—afraid or discouraged because of a possible danger

inaugurate—to celebrate a beginning

ascend—to move upward or rise

trespass—to go beyond the limits of what is considered right; to do wrong

hallow—to regard as holy; to honor as sacred

Lessons Learned in the Wilderness

During the forty years of wandering in the wilderness, the children of Israel had many experiences that showed the Lord’s protection and mercy toward them. They were stubborn and rebellious time after time; they became discouraged and grumbled. It is not always easy to do what we know is right, but we find that we are happier when we make the effort, just as the children of Israel did. The Israelites were now prepared to enter the Promised Land to begin new lives there.

Moses Not Allowed to Enter Promised Land

Moses was now 120 years old. He had faithfully led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and brought them through the wilderness to the Jordan River, which is the border of the Promised Land. However, the Lord had told Moses that he would not be allowed to enter the new land himself. Twice during the wilderness journey Moses used his rod to bring water out of a rock when the people were thirsty. But the second time he did it in anger. He was angry with the people for



complaining so bitterly all the time. This time he did not give praise to the Lord but took honor to himself for getting the water. In this story the Lord gives them a new leader, one who will lead them into Canaan. He reminds the people of the things that are truly important in their lives. **Read Deuteronomy 31:1-3, 6-9, 23-27; 34:1-9.**

Joshua Is Made the New Leader

Joshua was chosen to be the new leader and take the people across the Jordan River into the new land. Moses and Joshua came before the Lord in front of the tabernacle. Moses reminded all the people that the Lord Himself would be with them and bring them into the new land. He would help them fight their enemies so that the children of Israel could possess the land. Moses repeatedly asked the people to be strong and of good courage, always remembering that the Lord was with them, that He would never leave them. Then Moses officially inaugurated Joshua to take his place as the new leader. Moses again told Joshua to be strong and of good courage.



Moses Dies

The end of Moses' life was near. The Lord told Moses to go to the top of Mount Nebo. From there he could see the Jordan River and the land of Canaan beyond. It was a beautiful land with valleys, fields and streams. Good food grew there: grain, grapes, olives and many other plants. There was plenty of sun and rain. It was a very good place to settle and very much worth the struggle to get there. After seeing this wonderful sight, Moses died under the Lord's care. Moses had brought the people to the edge of the Jordan River and now Joshua would take them across.

The Books of Moses

The books of Moses, sometimes called the "book of the law," is the story of the ancient Israelites. It was written by Moses in the books that we know as Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy and kept with the ark. It was important for future generations to know the story of how the Lord had protected and guided them to this new land. It was important for future generations to know the Ten Commandments and how to worship the Lord. To help the Israelites keep their minds focused on the laws given to them by God, it was commanded that all the people should come together at the tabernacle every seven years to hear the law read. You remember that books were not available then as they are today and people could not read. Parents taught their children the law, but once every seven years everyone was to gather to hear it together. Moses also wrote a song

and taught it to the people. His song, found in Deuteronomy 32, was another way to help the people remember their history. The song tells the story of how the Lord saved the Israelites from their enemies and reminds them to be faithful and trust in Him.

Remembering the Law

The people were ready to follow Joshua's leadership. They had seen Joshua helping Moses and leading the fight when enemies attacked. They



were gladdened by Joshua's courage and his trust in the Lord. Now as Joshua took over as leader, the Lord reminded him to be strong and of good courage and to "observe" or keep the law. Why do you think this message is repeated so many times in our story? Sometimes it seems hard to obey the law because we want something else. Selfish spirits are enemies that attack us on the inside. It takes courage to do what we know is right. But the Lord loves you and wants you to succeed.

We keep the Lord in our minds much better when we read His Word. Sometimes it may not seem so, but when we learn the truth, it is easier and more delightful to follow the Lord's laws than to suffer the consequences of rebelling against Him. Through trying our best, with the Lord's help, His laws will come to be "written on our heart." Our covenant with the Lord will then be strong and His love will bring great joy and happiness to our hearts.

Discussion Ideas

- When we want to do something that we know we should not there is a struggle going on inside of us that is like fighting an enemy. How can we look for the Lord's help at times like this?
- Everyone needs help to getting to heaven. No one can do it alone. Talk the support family members and others can give to support us on the journey.

Activity Overview | Joshua Becomes the New Leader

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and go forward with courage; do not be afraid nor be dismayed, for the Lord God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Songs

O Zion, Rise in Glory

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-o-zion-rise-in-glory/>

Go Up!

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-go-up/>

Projects

Choose one or two activities.

- Activity 1 | The Story of Moses Sequencing Cards
- Activity 2 | Joshua, the New Leader Mix and Match
- Picture to color—Moses Sees the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 32)

Additional Activity Ideas

- Moses had a long life and served the Lord as a leader of His people. What might you do in your life to help the Lord? How could you be a leader for Him?
- Joshua went into the promised land and brought back a good report when most of the spies said there were giants in the land and that they should not go there. Later Joshua became the new leader of the children of Israel. Why do you think he will be a good leader? What qualities are important in a good leader?
- Why would it take courage for the children of Israel to cross the Jordan River? What do you think lies ahead for them there?



Activity 1 | Story of Moses Sequencing Cards

Review the story of Moses' life starting with the story of being hidden in the reeds by the river through the Exodus from Egypt.

Materials Needed

Story of Moses Sequencing Cards

scissors

Directions

1. Cut out the *Story of Moses Sequencing Cards*.
2. Sequence the cards to tell the story of Moses' life.
3. For groups, have one child tell the story of Moses' childhood, one tell about his early adult life, and one talk about his service to the Lord as the leader of the children of Israel.

Story of Moses Sequencing Cards



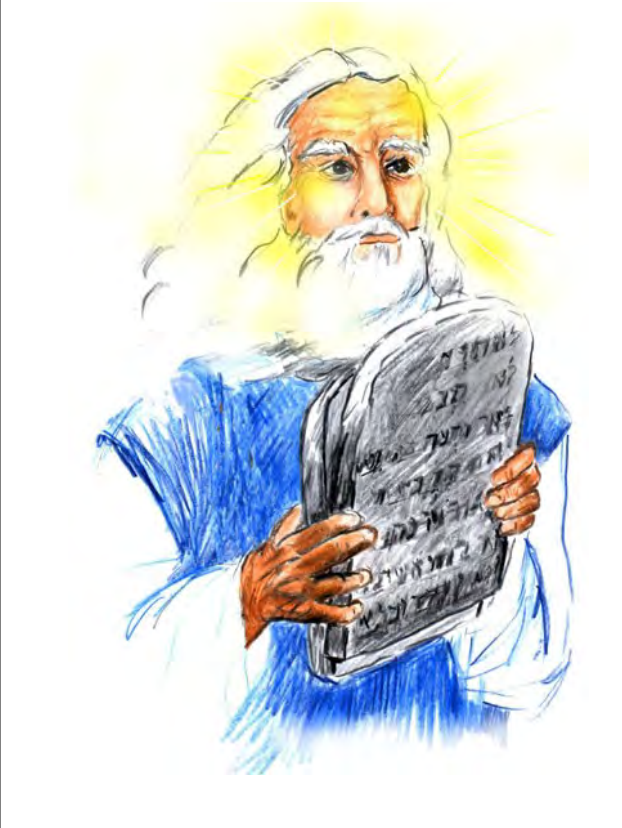
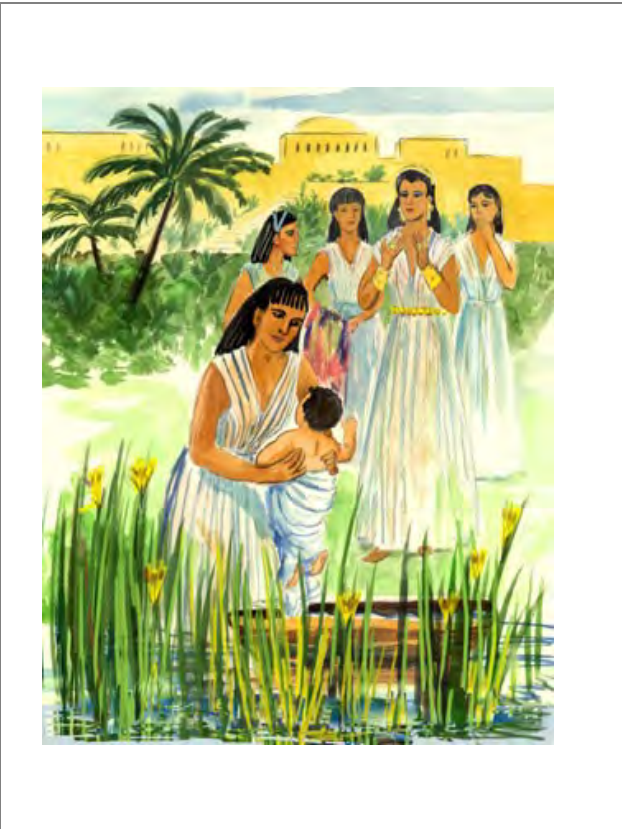
Story of Moses Sequencing Cards



Story of Moses Sequencing Cards



Story of Moses Sequencing Cards



Activity 2 | Mix and Match Activity

Read each question. Write the letter from the correct answer on the line before each question.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ___ 1. What does “forsake” mean? | A. 40 years |
| ___ 2. How old was Moses when he died? | B. Canaan |
| ___ 3. How long did the Israelites wander in the wilderness? | C. To be afraid or discouraged |
| ___ 4. What does “dismayed” mean? | D. The Jordan |
| ___ 5. What book of the Word is this story from? | E. To leave or abandon |
| ___ 6. What does “trespass” mean? | F. Deuteronomy |
| ___ 7. What river did Joshua lead the people over? | G. 120 years |
| ___ 8. What does “inaugurate” mean? | H. To do wrong |
| ___ 9. What was the name of the promised land? | I. To celebrate a beginning |

Answers:
1. E
2. G
3. A
4. C
5. F
6. H
7. D
8. I
9. B

