

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: February 22, 2015

SUBJECT: THE TRAVELS OF THE CHOSEN CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: The Death of Moses

SCRIPTURE: Numbers 27:12-23; Deuteronomy 3:24-28; 4:21-22; 32:44-52; 34:1-12

AIM: To help the children have a proper attitude when receiving correction. When we make mistakes and are corrected we should have a soft heart, be humble, and learn.

MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM: Galatians 6:7 (“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”); Ephesians 4:26 (“Be angry, yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your indignation,”); Proverbs 19:20 (“Listen to counsel, and receive instruction, That you may be wise at the end of your days.”); Proverbs 21:23 (Whoever guards his mouth and his tongue Keeps his soul from troubles.”)

SONG SUGGESTIONS: 13 (A New Commandment); 14 (Beloved Let Us Love One Another); 19 (When We're Kind to Others); 8327 BSS Moses Vol. 2 – Song 27 (Now Moses Went Up Into Mount Nebo); 98 (Wide, Wide as the Ocean); 6730 BSS Matthew Vol. 1 – Song 14 (To Make Happy); 5501 BSS Matthew Vol. 1 – Song 16 (Peacemakers)

APPROACH: Describe the following scenario to the children and ask what they think about it.

At school, there is a group project. Some kids are not cooperating: they are not doing any of the work, they may be fooling around, they may be complaining, etc. A child that is working hard gets frustrated, grabs a pencil and throws it. This child gets in trouble.

BACKGROUND/REVIEW:

Review of 2/15/15 lesson—Fiery Serpents

In last week's lesson, we saw that the children of Israel again spoke against God and Moses so God sent fiery serpents among them; many of the people were bitten and died. The people repented and asked Moses to pray to the Lord that He would take the serpents away. So God told Moses to make a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. If a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived. In this week's lesson, we'll see that the children of Israel are near to entering the good land and what happened to their leader, Moses.

Review of 2/8/15 lesson: The Waters of Meribah and the Death of Aaron

Review this lesson—see what the children remember.

CONTENT:

Moses Prohibited from Entering the Good Land and Joshua Assigned to Lead the People into the Good Land (Deut. 3:23-29). Moses was called by the Lord to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the good land. He wanted to go over to see the land very much, but because of Moses' sin at Meribah, the Lord only let Moses look at the land from the top of a mountain. He did not let Moses go into the land nor let him lead the others into it (Numbers 20:12). He was to strengthen and encourage Joshua—Joshua would lead the people into the good land.

The Successor of Moses (Numbers 27:12-23). When Moses heard that he would not be able to go into the land, he did not pout. He did not challenge the Lord, saying that it was not fair. He did as Jehovah commanded him—he took Joshua, set him before Eleazar the priest and before the whole assembly. He laid his hands on Joshua and charged him just as Jehovah had told him.

The Death of Moses – The Result of Moses’ Failure (Deut. 32:48-52; also Numbers 27:12-14). Jehovah told Moses to go to a mountain called Mount Nebo. Moses would die there because he was unfaithful to Jehovah at the waters of Meribah-kadesh. From the mountain, Moses could see the good land from a distance but he would not be able to enter into it. So Moses went to Mount Nebo and Jehovah showed him the good land. Then Moses died there. Jehovah buried Moses in a valley in the land of Moab and no one knows his burial site. Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died.

The children of Israel wept for Moses for thirty day. Then Joshua was filled with the spirit of wisdom and the children of Israel listened to him and did as Jehovah had commanded Moses. Since then, there has not been any prophet like Moses in Israel. He had a very special relationship with God. The Bible tells us Jehovah knew Moses "face to face." That is very special. It was through Moses that God performed great signs and wonders in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh, to all his servants, and to all his land. God used Moses to show mighty power and great fear.

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS:

- There are consequences to our actions. When we have made a mistake we should have a soft heart to receive correction. We should not be angry at our parents or teachers if there is a punishment; rather we should realize that they are disciplining us because they love us. It is a blessing to be humbled by consequences resulting from mistakes.
- Moses was not a selfish person. When he knew that he would not lead the people into the good land, he asked to appoint someone to lead them and be their shepherd. He cared for God’s people and he cared for God’s purpose more than himself.
- Moses was not a jealous person. When the Lord appointed Joshua to lead His people, Moses was not jealous of him nor did he despise him. Moses sincerely wanted Joshua to be a good leader for the people so that they really would go on to enter into the good land.
- We should learn to care for others. Moses did not make it into the good land, but he cared that the people of Israel would be brought into the good land. Example: (1) When we are in children's meeting, we can look around and see who is absent. Perhaps those children are sick or their parents were sick and could not take them to the meeting. It would be good to care for them by saying a little prayer for them, and to ask about them next time we see them. (2) Perhaps in school or in children's meeting, a new boy or girl comes for the first time. We should help them feel welcome, ask them to sit next to us, tell them where the classroom is after the singing time, etc.

Adapted from the Church in New York City Children’s meeting lessons: 1/8/89; 2/25/96; 2/22/04; 2/28/10