

Moses Dies

(Deuteronomy 34:1-12)

Introduction

If God told you that you only had a few days to live, what would you do?

Today we're going to learn what Moses did when the Lord told him it was time to come to heaven.

Opening Prayer

Father, Thank You that you sent Moses to be the savior of the children of Israel. Thank You that You gave him the strength and the wisdom he needed to lead the people to the Promised Land. He was a type of Jesus who is our Savior. If we would follow Jesus, He will lead us to our Promised Land, heaven, to be with You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. (Deuteronomy 34:10)

Lesson

Moses was one hundred twenty years old. And the Lord told him that it was time for him to die. So, Moses began to think back over his life and about all the things he had done in all those years.

He thought of the miraculous way God arranged for him to grow up in the Egyptian Pharaoh's household. And how God worked it out for his mother and his sister, Miriam, to be there, too, to care for him.

Does anyone remember how Moses, a Hebrew, got adopted by the Egyptian princess and grew up in the palace of the Pharaoh? The Pharaoh had passed a law that all Hebrew boy babies had to be killed at birth. So Moses' mother hid him until he was several months old.

Then she put him in a basket and floated him down the Nile River. The Pharaoh's daughter found the baby and wanted to keep him. Moses' sister, Miriam, had been watching from a hiding place. So then she suggested to the Princess that she go and get a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby which the Princess thought was an excellent idea!

God made sure that Moses lived! He had a plan and purpose for Moses' life!

What splendor he enjoyed as a boy growing up in the palace. And he also got the special advantage of a good education.

As Moses was thinking about his life, he surely remembered the day he killed the Egyptian and had to run for his life. Do you remember that story? He saw an Egyptian mistreating a Hebrew slave and was overcome with anger. So, he killed the Egyptian. Then he fled for his life out to the wilderness.

He spent 40 long years out in the wilderness taking care of his father-in-law's sheep. At the time he probably thought he would spend the rest of his life as a shepherd.

But then one day God called him and told him to go to Egypt and lead His people to a new land. Do you remember that story when God spoke to Moses from the burning bush?

Then Moses recalled how God used him in a powerful way to convince the Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go. Do you remember what God did through Moses? He sent ten plagues: water turned to blood, fleas, frogs, and finally the last one was when God sent the angel of death to kill the first born boy child of every household that did not have lamb's blood painted on their door posts.

Moses must have remembered the day the children of Israel fled from the Pharaoh's army when the Red Sea opened up and they went across on dry land.

And I'm sure he remembered the day he went up to the top of Mount Sinai and received the Ten Commandments.

There were many events Moses would never forget. And as he remembered his life, he fell on his knees and prayed to thank God for being so good to him and His people.

Then, while Moses was thinking back on his life, God called him to come up to the top of Mount Nebo.

Deuteronomy 34:1

Then Moses went up to Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab and climbed Pisgah Peak, which is across from Jericho. And the LORD showed him the whole land, from Gilead as far as Dan;

God pointed out the land across from Jericho. Moses looked at the land and thought how wonderful and exciting it would be to live there.

Deuteronomy 34:4

Then the LORD said to Moses, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have now allowed you to see it with your own eyes, but you will not enter the land."

God had promised Abraham that the land of Israel would be for his descendants. And the promise was passed down to his son, Isaac, and to Isaac's son, Jacob. And Jacob's name was changed to Israel. And Israel had 12 sons. These are the children of Israel, the Jews, this land is their land; God gave it to them and God never goes back on a promise.

But, Moses wouldn't be going there. Do you remember why? Moses had disobeyed God. Remember? When the children of Israel complained about not having enough water to drink, God told Moses to speak to the rock and it would pour forth water. But, Moses was so angry with the people that he struck the rock, not once, but twice!

God in His graciousness and love for the people gave them water from the rock, but because Moses disobeyed God's command, He didn't allow Moses to go into the Promised Land.

Moses understood that God was right. He loved God very much and trusted His decision. It always pays to do as God commands.

Deuteronomy 34:5-6

So Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, just as the LORD had said. The LORD buried him in a valley near Beth-peor in Moab, but to this day no one knows the exact place.

Later God resurrected Moses and took him to heaven.

Deuteronomy 34:7

Moses was 120 years old when he died, yet his eyesight was clear, and he was as strong as ever.

He was able to hike up to the top of Mount Nebo and see the whole of the Promised Land from the mountain top before he died! He was still in great physical shape at age 120!

Deuteronomy 34:8

The people of Israel mourned for Moses on the plains of Moab for thirty days, until the customary period of mourning was over.

The people felt very sad they had lost their great leader. But God had already chosen a new leader whose name was Joshua.

Do you remember Joshua? He was one of the two good spies that trusted God. Moses passed his leadership of the people on to him.

Deuteronomy 34:9

Now Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him, doing just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Moses was one of the greatest prophets that ever lived. He was the only one to whom the Lord spoke face to face.

Deuteronomy 34:10-12

There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. The LORD sent him to perform all the miraculous signs and wonders in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, and

all his servants, and his entire land. With mighty power, Moses performed terrifying acts in the sight of all Israel.

Moses truly was a man of God.

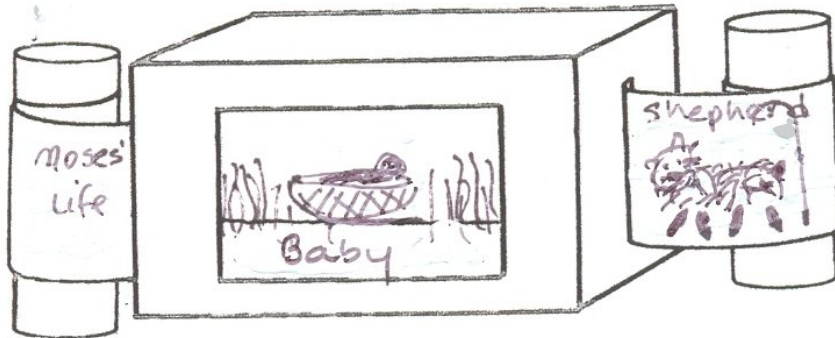
Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for raising up such a powerful leader. Give us a desire to be a strong leader, like Moses, in our homes and in our schools. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Shoebbox Filmstrip



1. Cut a window in the bottom of a shoebox and slits in the sides.
2. Cut butcher paper strips that can be pulled through the slits.
3. On the paper, have the children draw pictures of each event in Moses' life that will fill the screen.

4. After threading the filmstrip through the slits, secure each end to an empty cardboard (toilette paper) tube.

Game Center

Make this a final wrap up of the whole series of lesson on Moses. Create a big "Game Show" type game with questions drawn from all 21 lessons. Decorate with crepe paper streamers and balloons to make it a festive, end-of-year blow out.

Divide the class into two teams. Ask a question and the first team to hit a buzzer gets to answer the question. If that team fails to get the right answer, the other team can try. Give big points and prizes for all.

Or, use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. How old was Moses when he died? (120 years old)
2. Did Moses die by the sea shore or up on a mountain top? (Mountain top.)
3. What did Moses remember before he died? (All the wonderful things that God had done in his life.)
4. When Moses was born, how did God make sure he lived? (His mother floated him down the river in a basket and the Egyptian princess found him.)
5. Where did Moses grow up? (In the Egyptian Pharaoh's Place.)
6. Why did Moses have to run for his life out to the desert? (He killed an Egyptian man who was mistreating a Hebrew man.)
7. What did Moses do out in the desert for 40 years? (He was a shepherd.)
8. How did God speak to Moses when he was still out in the desert as a shepherd? (He spoke to Moses from a burning bush.)

9. What 10 things did God do through Moses to get Pharaoh's attention? (He sent 10 plagues.)
10. What amazing thing happened when the Pharaoh's army chased the children of Israel out of Egypt? (The Red sea opened up and the got over to the other side on dry land.)
11. What did Moses get from God on the top of Mount Sinai? (The Ten Commandments.)
12. Why didn't God let Moses go into the Promised Land? (He had disobeyed God and struck the rock instead of speaking to it.)
13. Did Moses think that God's punishment was unfair? (No! Moses loved God and trusted His decision.)
14. Who did God choose to be the leader of the children of Israel after Moses died? (Joshua)

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