

MOSES' LAST JOURNEY**Numbers 27:12-23; Deuteronomy 34**

Lesson Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:12 - "For whom the Lord loves He corrects; even as a father the son in whom he delights."

Lesson Aim: To teach the children to guard against sin in their lives because God will discipline them when they do things that are definitely wrong.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY - HE - SEE - WE - BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): The story is told of a fine Christian family who had just one child, a boy. This family lived in the country of Scotland. From the very first this mother and father did all they could to teach their son about God. They read the Bible and its stories to him. They took him to church and prayed for him. These two parents loved God and did all they could to be good examples to their son. When he was nine years old, he received Jesus as his Savior. As their son grew older he became a good student, but being a Christian did not seem to be the most important thing in his life.

His parents were able to send him to college and he did very well in his studies. After college he got a very good job. A short time later he was arrested by the police for taking money from the company for which he worked. The Bible calls this stealing. Do you realize that stealing is sin, even stealing a pencil from another student?

This man had to go to trial, where he was found guilty of stealing. As the judge told him how long he would have to stay in jail, his father stood close by with his head bowed in sorrow as if he were being punished. When the boy saw his father, they both began to weep. The father had failed to discipline his son like he should have, when he was a little boy. Now the judge had to discipline him by putting him in jail. The boy had to pay the penalty for his sin. If you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have a heavenly Father Who loves you and weeps when you sin. But that is not all that He does. He also disciplines and corrects you because He is a good Father.

HE (for Authority): When we receive Jesus as our Savior, we become children of God and He greatly loves His children. But God does not let His children do bad things without being punished for their sins. Proverbs 3:12 is our memory verse and it says that God disciplines those that He loves even as your earthly father disciplines you when you do wrong. He corrects us by causing troubles to come into our lives so that we will learn to do the things that please Him and stay away from sinful things.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First, let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

In our lesson today Moses is taking his last journey. Although Moses was a believer and did many good things in his life, he had disobeyed God in the wilderness, and we will learn how God disciplined him for doing wrong.

I. Direction Given to Moses by God (Numbers 27: 12; Dt 34:1)**A. Moses directed to Mt. Abarim - Num 27:12**

Moses had been used by God to lead the people of Israel for a long time. Just think of all the miracles God did through Moses. Can you name any of them? Remember when God used Moses to bring the plagues on Egypt? Can you name any of them? How about when God used Moses to open the Red Sea so that these people could walk right through the middle of the Sea on dry ground?

WE: We will be able to do great things for God, if we trust and obey Him. Why? Because He loves us.

As we begin our story today, God has used Moses to bring the people of Israel to the border of the Promised Land after wandering in the wilderness for forty years. Do you remember why it took them so long to get to the Promised Land? (Yes, their fathers did not believe God could help them conquer the giants in the Promised Land and they rebelled against Him.) Now their children were about ready to go into the new land that God had given them. Can you imagine how excited the people were? But what about Moses? God directed him to go to the top of Mt. Abarim.

B. Moses on Mt. Abarim [also called Mt. Pisgah and Mt. Nebo] (Num 27: 12; Dt 34:1-4)

Mt. Abarim, Mt. Pisgah and Mt. Nebo are different names for the same basic place. We may understand Mt. Abarim as the name given to the whole Moabite range of mountains that runs on the east side of the Jordan River. Mt. Nebo and Mt.. Pisgah are two names which refer to the mountain which God told Moses to climb.

God had told Moses that he could not go into the Promised Land because of his sin against God. Even though Moses was not allowed to go into the Promised Land, God was kind to him and let him see the land from the top of Mt Nebo.

WE: We may be punished for our sins, but God is kind to us when we repent and tell Him we are sorry. We may have to suffer, but He will be good to us in many other ways to show us His love.

II. Disobedience Explained to Moses by God (Num 27:14; Dt 32:48-52; 34:5)**A. The place of the disobedience**

We are told in Numbers 27:14 that Moses' disobedience took place at the waters of Meribah at Kadesh in the desert of Zin. The story is recorded in Numbers 20:7-13. The wilderness of Zin, where the story happened, was an open area lying south of the land which God had promised to His people. This wilderness is very near Kadesh. The disobedient act of Moses happened near the end of the wilderness wanderings. Meribah was a name given to the waters by Moses because of the complaining of the people and it means "place of strife." (Maybe you as the teacher will want to show the class the exact location of this place on a map. Children begin to understand maps around grades 4-6.)

B. The nature of the disobedience

What was Moses' sin? (See if the children can remember the story.) The people had been complaining to Moses for water and they would not leave him alone. Think of the many times a smaller brother or sister asks you for water or for something else that they want; does it ever make you angry? Moses went to God with this problem and He told Moses to speak to the rock and water would come out of the rock. Instead of obeying God and speaking to the rock, Moses was impatient and angry with the people and he hit the rock twice with his rod. This displeased God and He had to punish Moses for his disobedience. Why did it displease God? (Speaking to the rock was to illustrate how we can speak to Christ, our Rock, about our needs and He would answer our prayer. Hitting the rock ruined God's illustration. We do not hit Christ or have Him crucified again (as in a Mass) to get forgiveness or any other blessing from Him.)

WE: As a child of God we must be aware of the sin of disobedience, so we can confess it to God and get victory over it. (Make this a strong point of application.) When we get angry or impatient, God wants us to put away our anger and listen to Him. He can work things out so they will turn out all right. All we must do is obey God's will. We must never let our anger get the best of us and make us say and do wrong things. This is SIN (Rom 12:19)!

III. Discipline Given by God to Moses (Num 20:12; Dt 32:50-51)

Moses had to be punished for what he had done. Galatians 6:7 says that we will get what we plant. If we plant good seeds, we will receive good things in life; but if we plant bad seeds, we will receive bad things in life. Moses planted a bad seed of disobedience and he received a bad thing in this life: he could not go to the beautiful Promised Land that he wanted to go to most of all. He had waited 40 years for this day and God said that he could not go into the Land, because he had been disobedient. He planted the seeds of sin and was punished for his sin.

WE: We must take sin seriously. If we are mean and angry to people, we can expect to be punished for it. Maybe God will let people be mean and angry to us. God will have to correct or punish us just as our memory verse says. (Quote the verse.)

IV Deputy Chosen by God for Moses (Num 27: 15-23; Dt 34:9-12)**A. The Wisdom of God**

God had a leader all ready to take Moses' place. Moses had been training Joshua for 40 years during the wilderness journey. Joshua had been second in command, or deputy, to Moses until the time God called Moses to Mt. Nebo. When Moses would die, Joshua would take over as leader of the people.

B. The Welcome of Joshua

It was very clear that Joshua was to be the leader. Moses gathered all the people and told them that Joshua would replace him (Num 27:21-23).

WE: If we sin against God, He may not use us anymore, but will choose someone else to do His work. There is a time when God will not put up with the sin of a leader anymore. He will choose someone else to do His work. God does not need us if we disobey Him.

BE (for Action): We have been able to see from this lesson that sin brings sorrow. This is what happened to Moses. God had to punish Moses when he disobeyed Him. God will have to punish us if we disobey Him. Name some ways He may punish us. Does God use our parents to punish us for Him? (Many times.) Remember that God punishes us because He loves us. He wants to correct us so we will do the right things and can be blessed. Do you know of some disobedient things that you have done and have not confessed them to God? Confess those sins to God. Do it right now and then thank Him for forgiving you and cleansing you (1 Jn 1:9; Prov 28:13). If you confess and forsake your sin right now, God may not have to correct and punish you like Moses. Rather, He may still be able to bless your life. (Give the students an opportunity to pray and confess their sins to God in silence or publicly, whichever you feel is best.)