THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY

**CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON**

**LESSON #22**

**DATE:** February 16, 2020

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

**SCRIPTURE:** Numbers 27:12-23; Deuteronomy 3:23-29; 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 3:12 (For whom Jehovah loves He disciplines, / Even as a father, the son in whom he delights.)

**SONG SUGGESTIONS:** 13 (A New Commandment); 14 (Beloved, Let Us Love One Another); 19 (When We’re Kind to Others); 8327 *Bible Story Songs Moses Vol. 2 – Song 2*7 (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); 9522 *BSS Vessels Unto Honor #2* (Everything We Do and Say); 2829 (Honor and Respect for Authority); 155 (Blessing and Honor and Glory be Thine)

**CRAFT IDEA:** Use construction paper to make a picture of Moses standing on top of a mountain and looking at the good land across the Jordan River.

**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 very much to cross over the Jordan River to see the land and pleaded with God to please let him cross over and see the good land. But because of Moses’ serious sin at Meribah, where he rebelled against God’s word and misrepresented God, God only let Moses look at the land from the top of a mountain. (Numbers 27:14). God did not let Moses go into the land nor let him lead others into it (Numbers 20:12). This must have been hard for Moses, but he accepted the consequences of his sin. God told Moses to charge Joshua, and to strengthen and encourage him to cross over and lead the people into the good land. (You may remember that Joshua was one of two spies that spoke positive, encouraging words to the children of Israel about the good land and had faith in God’s promise to deliver the land to them.)

**The Successor of Moses (Numbers 27:12-23).** Moses did as Jehovah commanded him. He took Joshua, set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the people. He laid his hands on Joshua and charged him just as Jehovah had told him. He willingly passed the leadership to Joshua, as God had commanded.

**The Death of Moses – The Result of Moses’ Failure (Deuteronomy 32:48-52; Deuteronomy 34:1-12; 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 days. 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. Through Moses, God’s mighty power was shown to all the people of Israel.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS:** *Please do not try to cover all the applications. Just one or two may be sufficient depending on your particular age group.*

* **There are consequences to our actions.** Moses committed a serious sin and because of it, he was not able to enter into the good land. But he accepted the punishment. 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; it allows us to learn from them.
* **Moses was not a selfish person.** When he knew that he would not lead the people into the good land, Moses asked God 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 could 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. We could mail them a postcard or call them to say hello and let them know the memory verse for the week. (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, invite them to sit next to us, tell them the location of the classroom and bathroom, 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; 2/22/15