



## Lesson 44: Joshua becomes leader

### *Scriptural Basis:*



Deuteronomy 34; Joshua 1:1-11

### *Overview:*

It is time for the Israelites to move into the Promised Land. At this point, Moses is 120 years old, and has come to the end of his journey. Before Moses' death, God brings him up to the top of mount Nebo to show him the Promised Land. After this, Joshua, who has faithfully served along side Moses since the receiving of the 10 commandments, becomes leader of the Israelites.

### *Things to consider:*

God has brought Israel to the Promised Land. It is now up to them to continue to trust the Lord who will fight their battles, which will be required for them to occupy the Promised Land. God is doing this, not to establish the superiority of Israel over other nations, but as a way of judging the nations that have turned their backs on Him.

### *The gospel in the story:*



Joshua's name means "God saves." The gospel is about God who, in His faithfulness, brings salvation to sinners. In this account, we see a picture of God continuing to be faithful to His promise to bring Israel out of slavery and deliver them into the Promised Land. He provided a leader in the form of Joshua, and put His Spirit in Joshua for the purpose of leading the Israelites. But one would come later who's name is the (Greek form of Joshua) would come to deliver us from spiritual slavery and death.

### *Bible Study for Preparation:*



Deuteronomy 34; Joshua 1:1-11. Deuteronomy ends with a great exclamation of what an Awesome God did through His servant Moses. From a worldly view, it may seem like God was unfair not to let Moses into the Promised Land. But in actuality, the Promised Land is really just a metaphor for the true Promised Land – Heaven, where we will be reunited with our Creator and Father! And though Scripture is vague on this aspect, it would appear that God didn't just bury Moses in the desert, but actually brought him to heaven. This is alluded to in Jude 1:9, and seems to be the simplest way to explain how Moses appeared with Elijah (who was taken directly to heaven before death) at the transfiguration of Jesus written about in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

## *Preparing for the lesson:*

- A: Review the teacher page and handout for previous lesson(s)
- B: Read and meditate on Scripture
- C. Research/plan Lesson presentation:
- E. Research/plan Additional activity, craft and/or music:

## *Teaching the lesson:*

- A: Review – Last week: the serpent on a pole
- B: Bible verse memory activity
- C. Story
- D. Additional activity