

Lesson

Bible Lesson: Deuteronomy 31

1. Engaging Introduction

Welcome, everyone! Today, we're diving into an adventurous and exciting part of the Bible, found in Deuteronomy 31. Imagine you are part of a big group of people who have been on a journey for a long, long time. You've been traveling together, through deserts, following someone who is your leader, and together you've been learning about the promises of God. Now, you are getting close to a wonderful new land that you've been dreaming about.

In our story, there is a leader named Moses, who has been guiding his people, the Israelites, through many adventures. Moses has been leading them through tough times and through times when everything seemed impossible! But, Moses is very old, and God has a new plan. In this chapter, Moses must pass his leadership to someone else.

Before that happens, Moses has a very important message for everyone. Imagine Moses standing in front of all those people, like a wise teacher or a caring grandparent, ready to share his final words. These words are not only special because they come from Moses, but because they carry God's promises and instructions for the future. They include a surprising twist that a new leader named Joshua would be taking over. We'll see how God's promises and plans are meant to guide us and how we can be courageous because God is always with us.

2. Main Teaching Points

Now, let's explore the main ideas in this chapter that remind us about courage, leadership, and God's presence.

A. God's Ongoing Promise

The first point Moses shares is that God always keeps His promises. God promised to take care of the Israelites and to give them a new, beautiful land called Canaan. Just like your parents or guardians promise to care for you and make sure you have what you need, God promised to be with the Israelites no matter what. He reassures them that even though their journey has been long and sometimes hard, He is bringing them into this new land because He had promised it long before. This reminds us that God's promises are trustworthy and He always does what He says.

B. Transition of Leadership

Next up is leadership. Can you think about how it feels when your teacher or a coach has to go away for a while and someone new comes in? It can feel a bit strange, right? Moses tells the people that Joshua is going to be their new leader. Although Moses had been leading them this whole time and it could feel a little scary to have someone new, Moses reassures everyone that God has chosen Joshua and that Joshua is ready to lead.

C. Be Strong and Courageous

Here comes a big, brave piece of advice from Moses— "Be strong and courageous!" Imagine you're about to try something new and challenging. Maybe it's a big school play, a sports game, or

a new school year. Feeling a bit nervous or scared is normal. Moses tells the people not to worry about entering this new land because God will go ahead of them. He won't leave them alone! This is like when you might be nervous but remember that you can always ask for help when you need it because you're not alone in this.

D. God's Presence with Joshua

Lastly, Moses specifically talks to Joshua in front of everyone. Imagine Joshua standing there, taking in all these big responsibilities, and Moses encourages him by reminding him that God will be with him. He is not doing this alone. Think about a time when you had to do something new, and someone you trusted gave you encouragement. Those words stick with you and give you the strength to go forward. In this moment, Joshua hears directly from Moses that he can lead without fear because God will be with him every step of the way. Knowing that made all the difference for Joshua, and it can for us too.

3. Personal Application for Elementary Students

So, what does this all mean for you? How can you take these lessons from Deuteronomy 31 and use them in your own life?

Think about a time when you were scared to do something, but you were brave and did it anyway. Maybe it was riding a bike without training wheels or starting at a new school. Remember, just like God promised to stay with the Israelites and stay with Joshua, God promises to be with you too.

Whenever you feel unsure or afraid, remember you can ask God for help. You can pray and ask for courage, just like the Israelites needed courage to move into their new land. Being brave doesn't mean you're not scared, it means you go forward anyway because you know someone strong is with you.

Also, just like Joshua was chosen to be a leader, you can be a good leader in your own life. A leader isn't just someone in charge; it's anyone who helps others and sets a good example. It could be in your family, your classroom, or with friends. Start by being kind, helping someone in need, or standing up for what's right even when it's tough. You are never too young to be a leader and make a difference.

4. Interactive Discussion Questions with Explanation and Teaching Guidance

To help these ideas stick in our minds, let's talk through some questions together. I want to hear your thoughts!

1. Why do you think it was important for Moses to tell the Israelites to be strong and courageous?

- Encourage students to think about times when they have faced challenges and the role courage played. Highlight the importance of having encouragement from others and faith that helps us feel brave.

2. How would you feel if you were Joshua, about to become the new leader? What would you be excited or nervous about?

- Guide students to express their feelings about leadership and change. This helps them empathize with Joshua and relate it to their own experiences with new responsibilities.

3. Can you think of a situation where you needed to remember that God was with you? How did that change how you felt?

- Encourage students to share stories, fostering a sense of community and understanding that everyone has moments when they rely on faith. Highlight how remembering God's presence can bring comfort and strength.

4. What are some qualities of a good leader, and how can you be a leader in your own life?

- Lead students to think about everyday leadership—being kind, offering help, or showing patience. Encourage them to share ways they can practice leadership in small everyday ways at home or school.

Through these questions, students can reflect on what they've learned from Deuteronomy 31 and apply it to their lives. As we finish our time together, remember—just like the Israelites were reminded by Moses, you are brave and never alone because God is always with you, cheering you on no matter where your journey leads!