**Moses Names Joshua as Leader**

**A Bible Story From**

**Deuteronomy 31:7-8, 14-15, 23; 34:9;  
Joshua 1:1-9**

**Bible Story Number: 1010680**

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**Bible Story**

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**Background**

God made a profound promise to Abraham (called a covenant):

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

This promise (covenant) was passed on to Isaac and Jacob. God reconfirmed His promise to the descendents of Abraham. The nation of Israel continued to be God’s chosen people.

The Israelites (descendents of Jacob) moved to Egypt as a part of God’s plan. God used what Joseph’s brothers intended as evil as a way to bless Joseph and rescue the entire family.

After the tenth plague that God sent on the Egyptian people, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites leave. They had been in Egypt 430 years. The day they left, there were approximately 600,000 foot soldiers in the Israelites army. The total number of people was much larger because this did not include their families.

The Israelites had been away from Egypt for a while when the events described in this story took place. They had complained several times. They had disobeyed God many times.

Moses was their leader and God spoke to them through him. Moses was still concerned because God had told him to lead the Israelites to the land God had promised but that God would not be going with them. (Ex. 33:3)

Moses talked to God on behalf of the Israelites. God committed to go with them. This even happened before they continued their journey.

God also met with Moses to replace the stone tablets he had broken. Moses spent forty day and nights on Mount Sinai. His face glowed (or was radiant) each time he went to hear from God.

This story shows how God appointed Joshua as the successor to Moses. Joshua leads the Israelites into the land God had promised to give them and their descendants.

**Story from the Bible**

**Deuteronomy 31:7-8, 14-15, 23; 34:9; Joshua 1:1-9**

This is what the Bible says.

God had done great miracles through Moses. The Israelites had followed Moses for forty years. It began with the plagues in Egypt and continued throughout their journey in the desert.

God instructed Moses to name Joshua as leader. He called Joshua publicly and spoke to him in front of all the Israelites. He told Joshua to be strong and courageous. He told him he would lead the Israelites into the land God had promised to give them. He said that God would be with them and enable them to take over the land and defeat the people who lived there. He told Joshua and the people that God would go before him. God would give him success. He told them, God would not leave them or forsake them. Once again, Moses told them not to be afraid or discouraged.

God told Moses that his death was coming soon. He instructed Moses to take Joshua and go to the tent of meeting so God could commission Joshua Himself. Moses obeyed God. He and Joshua went before God in the tent of meeting. God appeared at the tent in a cloud. The cloud stayed at the entrance to the tent.

God commissioned Joshua (son on Nun). He told him to be strong and courageous. He promised to be with Joshua and that the Israelites would conquer the land He had promised to their ancestors.

Joshua was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid hands on him. The Israelites obeyed him and did as God had commanded.

After Moses died, God spoke to Joshua. He told him that Moses had died. He instructed Joshua to prepare the people to cross over the Jordan River to the land He had promised. God told Joshua that He would give him every place where his feet would tread. He said that no one would be able to stand against him. God said He would not leave him or forsake him. Again He told Joshua to be strong and courageous. He also told him to carefully obey all that He had commanded through Moses.

God warned him not to turn away from what He had instructed. He told him the book of instruction must be recited every day so that he would carefully obey everything written in it. If he obeyed, he would always prosper and succeed.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Why do you think God told Moses to name a new leader?
* What words of challenge and encouragement did God have for Joshua and the Israelites?
* Do you think it was important that Joshua was named publicly? Why or why not?
* What did God do when Moses and Joshua went to the tent of meeting?
* What instructions did God give to Joshua after Moses died?
* What warning did God give Joshua?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.