

PREPARING AT HOME

October 23-29, 2017

Focus reading: Deuteronomy 34:1–12 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=374573301>).

Other lectionary readings: Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8; Matthew 22:34–46

Theme: Time to Say Goodbye

Throughout the forty years that the Hebrew people have journey in the wilderness, Moses had led them and been an example to them. Their relationship has had its share of ups and downs, but Moses has always been there for the people. Even when they might not have deserved it, Moses pled to God on the peoples' behalf. Throughout the journey we have caught glimpses of the intimate relationship Moses shared with God. It is time, however, for Moses' life to come to an end. He will not share the final steps of the journey. He will not enter the land of Promise. He does, however, go to the top of a mountain from which God shows him the land and assures him that the promise will be fulfilled. Moses' death and burial do not leave the people orphaned. Joshua, who has been mentored and blessed by Moses, is ready to assume leadership for the challenges that lie ahead. Some may think that Moses' story has ended with this reading, but his story is linked inextricably with a greater story: God's story. His story continues through Joshua and beyond because all of our stories come together and find their meaning in God's story.

YOUR STORY

What is your story? How does it begin? What are the highlights and low points of your story? What do you want people to know about you? Your story is ongoing. What would you like your story to say in the future? Make a booklet and show your story in words and pictures. How has God been at work in your story? How can God use your story?

PASSING ON THE FAITH

Moses passed his wisdom on to Joshua. He taught him and blessed him. Who are the faithful mentors in your child's life? Who is an example of faithful living for your child? Recent research attests to the importance of these relationships when it comes to developing a lasting faith. Connect your child to these important people!

PRAYER

Loving God,
We thank you for good leaders.
Bless our leaders with wisdom and kindness.
Help us all to do what you want us to do.
Use our stories to write
your own story of
love and justice
for all of your people.
Amen.

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