



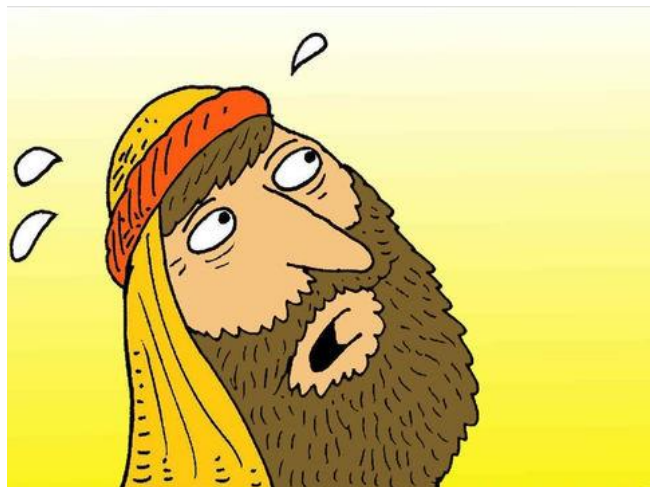
L2L46: Moses' Mistake

Numbers 20

The Israelites rebelled against God when they were supposed to go into the land God promised them, so as a punishment God made them wander in the desert for forty years. They were now getting close to the end of that time, but it seemed the people had not changed very much—they still complained and complained. One day, the congregation was made to camp in a place where there was no water. Instead of asking God for help, they were angry and complained to Moses and Aaron. God told Moses to gather the people together to witness a special miracle that God was going to perform to bring water from a rock. God had done this miracle before, only this time He wanted Moses to speak to the rock instead of hitting it with his staff as he had before. Moses was so angry with the people for all their complaining that he made a hasty mistake—a mistake which would change the course of his life.

Discuss:

- Why do you think the people were the people complaining about not having water? What would it be like to be in the desert without water?
- Why do you suppose the people didn't ask God for help when they were in trouble? Why is it important that we ask God to help us when we are in trouble?
- What were God's instructions to Moses and Aaron? What did Moses and Aaron actually do?
- Why was God so angry with Moses? Have a look at Numbers 20:10. Was Moses giving God the credit for causing the miracle? What should have Moses said?
- What was Moses' punishment for his mistake? What lessons can we learn from this story?



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Memory Challenge:

Numbers 20:12

Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."



L2L47: Joshua: The Courage to Lead

Deuteronomy 31-34, Joshua 1

The Children of Israel had been wandering in the wilderness for forty years and it was finally time to go into the land God promised them. Moses was now one hundred and twenty years old! He had lived a long and very exciting life, but God would not allow him to enter the Promised Land. It was time for Moses to sleep and await the resurrection. God gave Joshua the charge to lead Israel, but before Joshua could take on his new role, God had a few things to say to him.

Discuss:

- God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). What did God tell Moses to do to ensure an orderly transition of leadership? (Numbers 27 gives some more details about this as well)
- What jobs did Joshua have over the forty-year period which trained him for leading Israel?
- What was one of the last things Moses told Joshua before he died?
- What is courage? Does being courageous mean we are never afraid? What does it mean to be strong and courageous? From where do we ultimately get our strength?



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Memory Challenge:

Deuteronomy 31:7

Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.”



L2L48: Rahab

Joshua 2

Joshua was preparing to lead the Israelites into the land God promised them. He knew it wasn't going to be an easy task, and there would be obstacles along the way. There were two big obstacles right from the beginning—the Jordan River and the great, walled city of Jericho. In order to cross over the river and take the city, Joshua would need a plan. So, he selected two men to be spies to go look around the city and bring important information about it back to him. The spies went into the city and found a place to stay in the house of a woman named Rahab. Unfortunately, someone had seen the spies and suspected what they were up to. The two men were in great danger, and Rahab had a risky decision to make.

Discuss:

- Why did Joshua send spies into the city of Jericho? Why was it important that they go secretly?
- What did Rahab tell the men who came to capture the two spies?
- Where did Rahab hide the spies? Why was it dangerous for her to do this?
- Why did Rahab want to help Joshua's spies? What was her request to them?
- It would have taken Rahab a lot of courage to do what she did in hiding the spies and requesting that they allow her and her family to be unharmed in the upcoming battle. What does it mean to have courage? As Christians, how can we gain courage?



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Memory Challenge:

Joshua 2:11

“And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.”



L2L49: Israel Crosses the Jordan

Joshua 3-4

The spies that Joshua sent returned safely from Jericho with important information that Joshua needed to attack the city. However, before the Israelites could capture the city they had to make it past the first big obstacle—the Jordan River. The river flowed from the north in Galilee to the Dead Sea and at the time was a broad, wide river, filling its banks to the brim. How was Joshua supposed to get all the people safely across to the other side? Joshua trusted that God had a plan. The Ark of the Covenant would be carried down to the river and the people were to follow after it. But, how would they get across? God was about to perform another miracle before His people, this time intending to remind the people that Joshua had been chosen as Israel’s leader after Moses.

Discuss:

- The Israelites had been camping for three days near the Jordan River. How were the people supposed to know that it was time for them to move?
- What is the Ark of the Covenant? What did it represent? Why do you think God wanted the Ark to lead the people?
- What miracle did God perform to help the people cross the Jordan River? How was it similar to or different from the crossing of the Red Sea?
- Why did the twelve tribes set up memorial stones after crossing the river? Where did the stones come from? What did they mean?



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Memory Challenge:

Joshua 3:5-6

And Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, “Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people.” So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.