



## SELFIES IN THE DESERT, PART 7: REPLACE YOURSELF

Everything—even good things—have to come to an end. The death of Moses left a huge hole in the hearts of God's people. Yet even though Moses is dead and gone, Moses did some very intentional things to make sure that his leadership left a legacy, long after he was pushing up daisies. Moses replaced himself long before he ever died, so that God's work never missed a beat.

**BIG IDEA: Leaving a legacy involves replacing ourselves with the right people.**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What employer-employee, teacher-pupil, or coach-player relationship has most influenced you? How?
2. What instructions did your mom usually repeat at least three times as you left the house?
3. Have you ever felt overwhelmed with responsibility? When was it? Why did you feel overwhelmed? How did everything work out?
4. *With your Bible or Bible App, read [Deuteronomy 34](#).*

*<sup>1</sup> Then Moses went up to Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab and climbed Pisgah Peak, which is across from Jericho. And the LORD showed him the whole land, from Gilead as far as Dan; <sup>2</sup> all the land of Naphtali; the land of Ephraim and Manasseh; all the land of Judah, extending to the Mediterranean Sea; <sup>3</sup> the Negev; the Jordan Valley with Jericho—the city of palms—as far as Zoar. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have now allowed you to see it with your own eyes, but you will not enter the land.” <sup>5</sup> So Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, just as the LORD had said. <sup>6</sup> The LORD buried him in a valley near Beth-peor in Moab, but to this day no one knows the exact place. <sup>7</sup> Moses was 120 years old when he died, yet his eyesight was clear, and he was as strong as ever. <sup>8</sup> The people of Israel mourned for Moses on the plains of Moab for thirty days, until the customary period of mourning was over. <sup>9</sup> Now Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him, doing just as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>10</sup> There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. <sup>11</sup> The LORD sent him to perform all the miraculous signs and wonders in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, and all his servants, and his entire land. <sup>12</sup> With mighty power, Moses performed terrifying acts in the sight of all Israel. [Deuteronomy 34:1-12 \(NLT\)](#)*

5. Who do you suppose buried Moses if he was all alone when he died? Who do you suppose wrote this epitaph for Moses? (*Deuteronomy 34:7-10-12*)

*Before Joshua steps on the scene—before something is birthed and something new comes to life—something has to die. For the Israelites to get into their promised land, Moses—God's leader—had to die. Sometimes—if we're going to go into the promises God has for us—good things must die so that others can live. Sometimes good dreams must die so that God's dreams can flourish.*

6. Sometimes God shows us that even some good things—some Moses things—must die for us to step foot into the Promised Land. What sort of things in your life do you think God wants to end so that new adventures can begin?
7. How did Israel respond to the death of Moses? What happened to Joshua after this? (*Deuteronomy 34:9, Joshua 1*) Why did the Israelites look to Joshua as their new leader?
8. In your own words, describe the principle of *replace yourself*.

9. With your Bible or Bible App, read [Joshua 1](#).

<sup>1</sup> After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. <sup>2</sup> "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. <sup>3</sup> I promise you what I promised Moses: 'Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you—<sup>4</sup> from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.' <sup>5</sup> No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you. <sup>6</sup> "Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. <sup>7</sup> Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. <sup>8</sup> Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. <sup>9</sup> This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." <sup>10</sup> Joshua then commanded the officers of Israel, <sup>11</sup> "Go through the camp and tell the people to get their provisions ready. In three days you will cross the Jordan River and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you." <sup>12</sup> Then Joshua called together the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. He told them, <sup>13</sup> "Remember what Moses, the servant of the LORD, commanded you: 'The LORD your God is giving you a place of rest. He has given you this land.' <sup>14</sup> Your wives, children, and livestock may remain here in the land Moses assigned to you on the east side of the Jordan River. But your strong warriors, fully armed, must lead the other tribes across the Jordan to help them conquer their territory. Stay with them <sup>15</sup> until the LORD gives them rest, as he has given you rest, and until they, too, possess the land the LORD your God is giving them. Only then may you return and settle here on the east side of the Jordan River in the land that Moses, the servant of the LORD, assigned to you." <sup>16</sup> They answered Joshua, "We will do whatever you command us, and we will go wherever you send us. <sup>17</sup> We will obey you just as we obeyed Moses. And may the LORD your God be with you as he was with Moses. <sup>18</sup> Anyone who rebels against your orders and does not obey your words and everything you command will be put to death. So be strong and courageous!" [Joshua 1:1-18 \(NLT\)](#)

10. Put yourself in Joshua's shoes. He has just lost his best friend and his mentor, and now you are asked to fill his shoes—the most popular and powerful man in Israel's history. How do you feel? What are you thinking? What is your greatest fear? Your greatest challenge?
11. How many times does God tell Joshua to be strong and courageous? What do you think that this says about Joshua's demeanor?
12. What promises are given to Joshua? (*Joshua 1:3-5, 9*) Which ones ask Joshua to look back and remember God? Which ones ask him to look forward and believe God? How are our past and our future connected by faith?
13. God gave Joshua five direct commands in verses 7-8, all related to His laws. Can you list them?
14. What was necessary for success in Joshua 1:7? What do you think God meant here by success?
15. Read *Joshua 1:5-9* again. Which command given to Joshua would have been the toughest for you to obey? Why?
16. Which one of His promises would be most helpful to you if you were 'left on your own'?
17. What challenges lie before you now? What fear might hinder you?

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do.* Joshua 1:7