

# ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

## *Interactive Sunday School Outline*

**TOPIC:** On the Verge - Passing the Baton

**TEXT:** Deuteronomy 31:1-13

**Instructions** - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

**Introduction** - What a journey! From being a shepherd of sheep in the desert to being the shepherd of a nation through the desert, Moses has lived a full life—a life that will never be forgotten. Now both he and Israel are prepared to move on but in different directions. As Israel moves on to the next stage in their journey and Moses moves upward to his reward, Moses has a few things to say. What he says and the way he says it is a model for all who lead and who must eventually pass on their responsibilities to others.

### **Discussion questions:**

1. What is difficult about turning over leadership? How would you describe Moses' attitude as he prepares to set down his leadership and turn over the reins to Joshua?
2. For forty years Moses lived in Pharaoh's court, for forty years he was a shepherd, and for forty years he was the leader of a nation. How did the first two phases of his life contribute to making him God's servant leader?
3. Can we say that God uses the various phases and stages of our lives to shape our character in order to prepare us for His purpose? Explain.

4. Moses is 120 years old and facing his limits at this point (v. 2). Why might it be good for Moses and Israel that God is restraining him from entering the land? Discuss
5. The last time Israel stood at the edge of the land they refused to enter. How is Moses preparing them to do better this time (Vs. 3-6)?
6. Joshua succeeds Moses as the national leader. What are his primary responsibilities (Vs. 7- 8)? What wisdom or skills do you think he learned from watching Moses' lead?
7. As with the nation, Moses encourages Joshua to be strong and courageous (v. 7). In what ways can fear to inhibit a leader? How can it be handled?
8. The land and the law are central to the life of Israel. How are they related to each other (vs. 12-13)?
9. What would be missing in both the Jewish and Christian religions if Moses had not written the first five books of the Old Testament (also known as the Pentateuch, the Torah, or the Law)? How do you think your life and faith would be different?
10. Moses served both God and God's people as he led them toward the Promised Land. Thinking back over the studies in this guide, what did Moses do when his service to God put him in conflict with the service the people wanted from him? Can it be possible that the congregation influence their leaders to do what is contrary to the commands of God.
11. Based on these studies, what one or two principles of leadership do you think are most important to understand and live out in order to serve God well as a leader?
12. What would you consider to be the grandest legacy that Moses left that has been treasured for generations and the most awful legacy that he left?