

October 29, 2023

# GOD'S STORY, OUR STORIES

Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home

Whether together or apart, we wonder and learn from amazing stories of God's people shared from generation to generation.



We travel with the people of Israel on their long journey through the wilderness toward a new land and new identity and tell our own stories about God and who we are as Christ's disciples.

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This week, as we stand with the people on the border of a new land, we consider the thresholds of our lives and the significance of our stories within God's larger story.

## God's Dream for Love

**Read** [Deuteronomy 34:1–12](#) or **listen** to the audio story "[God's Promises](#)," or **gather** around as someone tells the story "[Moses Blesses Joshua](#)."

The book of Deuteronomy tells the last part of the story of Moses and introduces a new leader named Joshua.

As the people reach the end of their journey through the wilderness and prepare to settle in a new land, Moses climbs a high mountain and looks out over the land of promise – a land he will see but in which he will never live. Moses dies there in Moab, and the people mourn his death. Moses will be remembered as the greatest prophet Israel has ever known. Joshua takes up the mantle of leadership, which had been passed to him directly from Moses. Both of these great leaders helped to shape the stories of the people of Israel and continue to live on through the people of faith.

- **The blessing Joshua receives from Moses empowers Joshua to become a leader for the people. Take turns blessing each family member. Take the hands of another in yours and say, "You are special to God. Be strong and have courage, knowing God loves you."**
- **As you reflect on this week's story, use your materials for creativity to imagine the faces of the people as they listened to Moses speak. How would they be feeling? When have you experienced something similar or felt something similar? Listen to each other's stories.**

## Make, Walk, and Wonder

### Dreaming love with God

**Make** a heart shape on a large piece of paper, like the one on this week's [activity page](#). Jesus taught people what Israel's leaders had been teaching for generations, all the way back to Moses: love. God's dream is that all will love and be loved. How do you show others love? How have others shown love for you? Fill the heart with words or pictures that remember the ways you experience love.

### Listen to the land

**Go for a walk** outside if you can. Carefully gather fallen objects such as twigs, leaves, rocks, and flower petals. Bring your finds inside and display them on the table. Consider your connection to the land. What do you remember about the land? How does the land come alive? What does the land love?



1. As you are able, share a story from your reflection with another. Listen to their story.
2. Wonder how you might care for the land as land has cared for you. You might learn more about the land, its history, and the Indigenous people for whom this land has been and is important.
3. Pray together for land and your desire to care for land well.

## During the Week

**Watch** this [video on Deuteronomy](#) from The Bible Project to remember the breadth of the story that leads to these final scenes in the Torah, in the story of Moses.

- **What did you notice about the story in this overview?**
- **What questions arise for you?**
- **What part of the story do you feel curious about exploring further?**
- **How, this week, are you living into the hope for a newly transformed heart?**
- **How, this week, are you enacting the command of Holy One to love God and love all with your whole being?**

The great stories told by the community of faith, generation after generation, include themes and values to which our individual and communal stories are connected. The people of God throughout time have told stories of encounter with God from the past to help understand the stories and experiences of the people today. When we feel God is far away, tell the stories of the psalmist's cries for God to "come back" or "show your face." When the world seems beyond help, tell the story of Noah and the rainbow of promise. Our personal and communal stories take on a different kind of significance when placed within the larger story of God and God's people when held by the community with affection and respect.

- **Throughout this week, be mindful of the ways your story connects to God's story.**

### Prayer

Come, stay with us, O God.

Come, be our breath.

Each day and every night,  
you will be with us.

You will be Spirit, Comforter, Encourager and Guide,  
reminding us to breathe in and breathe out.

Come and breathe with us now.

O God, come, be our breath.

**Listen** to "[We Tell Stories](#)" by Joel McKerrow and the Mysterious Few. You may also choose to download it for a small fee.  
**Visit** [Lection Connection](#) for current events that connect with this week's scriptures.

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