

March 6

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

This passage tells of the death of Moses. He did not enter the Promised Land himself, but he led the Israelites for many years and got them to the point at which they could enter the land God had promised.

Question to Consider:

Moses was one of the key figures in the story of Israel. Think of someone who has played an especially significant role in your life. Who was it? What did he or she do that stood out for you?

Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for bringing special people into my life. Bless them this day, and bless me to be a special person to someone else. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

March 7

Joshua 3:1-17

The Israelites were now under the leadership of Joshua and they prepared to enter the Promised Land. In these verses, we read about them crossing the Jordan River.

Question to Consider:

The Israelites had finally reached their destination after a long journey. Think of a time when you finally reached a long-awaited destination. How did it feel? Was the destination all you expected it to be?

Prayer:

Dear God, help me to trust that you will lead me through life. There will be times when I am challenged and afraid, and there will be times when I face something that seems too big - like crossing the Jordan must have seemed to the Israelites. Please, Lord, increase my faith. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

March 8

Joshua 6:1-20

The Israelites began to move into the Promised Land and conquer it. This passage tells the story of the walls of Jericho coming down.

Question to Consider:

The Israelites were told by God to do something that must have seemed unusual - walk around the city and blow trumpets. Has there been a time when you were asked to do something that did not seem to make sense, but later turned out to be good? What was it?

Prayer:

Almighty God, I pray that I will be willing to trust you and follow you, even when you ask me to do something that seems hard to believe. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

March 9

1 Samuel 3:1-21

The events described in this passage took place many years after the Israelites had conquered and settled in the land God had promised. Another of the major characters in Israel's story is Samuel and in these verses we read about God speaking to Samuel for the first time, when Samuel was still a child. Samuel had been dedicated to the Lord by his mother, Hannah, and entrusted to the care of a priest named Eli.

Question to Consider:

Eli asked Samuel to tell him what God had said, even if it was unpleasant to hear. Has someone ever told you something that was difficult for you to hear? Or, have you had to tell someone something that was hard to share because you knew it would be painful? What was it?

Prayer:

Merciful God, sometimes I need to hear, or share, something that is painful. When I need to hear it, help me to listen well. When I need to say something that might be painful, help me to say it with love and compassion. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

March 10

1 Samuel 8:1-22

Samuel grew up and became one of Israel's great prophets (teachers, men of God). In this passage, the Israelites call on Samuel to give them a king.

Question to Consider:

Samuel knew that the people were making a request they would come to regret. God knew it, too. In general, what do you think the best course of action is when someone wants to make a choice that you know will be regretted later?

Prayer:

All knowing God, there will come a time when someone I care about is preparing to make what is clearly a bad choice. When that time comes, please give me the wisdom to respond as you would have me respond. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.