

KCLC Radio: Landslide

5-Day Devotional



LANDSLIDE



The Song and the Story of Moses

🎵 THE SONG: 1973

- 1973: Watergate accelerating (Nixon fires special prosecutor Cox that October, impeachment calls follow), the OPEC oil embargo and energy crisis, Vietnam technically over but unresolved.
- A nation experiencing its own kind of landslide.
- It's into this year, in a cabin in Aspen, that 25-year-old Stevie Nicks sits down to write.

📖 SONG HISTORY

- Nicks and Buckingham had just been dropped by their label; she was waitressing and cleaning houses to support them both.
- She went to Aspen not on vacation but to decide whether to quit music and go back to school.
- "Can I handle the seasons of my life" = a real question from someone ready to give up, not poetic abstraction.
- The turn: 50 years later, this January, the original recording hit the Billboard Hot 100 for the first time ever—after *Stranger Things* series finale introduced it to a new generation.
- It took half a century for the world to catch up to something written in a moment of near-giving-up.

TURN TO MOSES



- We've all had a landslide—diagnosis, marriage, a calling we weren't sure we could answer.
- We've turned Moses into a monument (plagues, parted sea, fire on the mountain) and forgotten the man.
- Before any of that: a fugitive, forty quiet years, a man who argued with God to his face because he didn't think he had what it took.

“GOD DOESN'T SHOW UP ONLY AT THE BURNING BUSH, THE SEA, OR THE MOUNTAIN AT THE END—GOD IS PRESENT AT EVERY LANDSLIDE IN THIS MAN'S LIFE.”



1 LANDSLIDE 1 MIDIAN

(Exodus 2:11–15)

"Can the child within my heart rise above? / Can I sail through the changin' ocean tides? / Can I handle the seasons of my life?"

- Identity collapses in one impulsive act: Moses flees, becomes a foreigner in a foreign land, names his son Gershom ("a sojourner").
- Forty invisible years—not triumphant rising, just getting up the next morning and functioning.
- Note: not "we shall overcome"—just "can I even move forward?" Universal, no expertise required.



2 LANDSLIDE 2 THE BURNING BUSH

(Exodus 3–4)

"I've been 'fraid of changin' 'cause I've built my life around you / but time makes you bolder / even children get older / and I'm gettin' older, too."

- God calls from the bush—fire, voice, the call.
- Moses's logic: he tried to do the right thing—acted, killed a man, lost everything.
- Same bold nature, now argued instead of acted—refuses God five times.
- He has a real family: Zipporah, Gershom, Eliezer. Every "no" carries the cost of what "yes" would take.
- "Time makes you bolder": maturing into a different expression.



3 LANDSLIDE 3 STRIKING THE ROCK

(Numbers 20)

"Can I handle the seasons of my life?"—now asked by a man who already knows the answer and has to live with it.

- Moses takes credit ("must we bring you water") and strikes instead of speaks—small moment, permanent cost.
- The landslide isn't the choice itself, it's the realization that sinks in after: "you will not bring this community into the land."
- God doesn't undo the consequence; God stays present inside it, walks the rest of the way to Nebo with him anyway.



4 FINAL LANDSLIDE NEBO

(Deuteronomy 34)

"And if you see my reflection in the snow covered hills... the landslide will bring it down."

- Full circle: Moses climbs, sees the land, doesn't enter, dies there.
- No fighting God (unlike the bush), no slipping away—full acceptance without collapse.
- God himself buries him; no one knows the location.
- Called "friend" of God—Ex. 33:11; Deut. 34:10—a title given to no one else.
- Taken into the story of God's faithfulness—not a failure, but a finished life.





THROUGH EVERY LANDSLIDE, *God is present.*
Not only at the burning bush, the sea, or the mountain at the end—
but at every landslide in this man's life.

I'LL BE THERE AS I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN.
—THE BURNING CRY

Day 1: When One Moment Changes Everything

Reading: Exodus 2:11-15

One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, “Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?”

The man said, “Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and thought, “What I did must have become known.”

When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.

Devotional: Moses' impulsive decision to kill an Egyptian guard transformed his entire life in an instant. From palace to wilderness, from prince to fugitive—one moment changed everything. Perhaps you've experienced a similar moment when everything shifted. A diagnosis. A loss. choice you regret. Moses named his son Gershon, meaning “foreigner,” revealing how deeply this landslide weighed on him. Yet God never abandoned Moses in Midian. The same is true for you. Your worst moment doesn't define your worth to God. Jesus knows your name and walks closest to you in your deepest struggles. No impulsive decision, no matter how devastating, ends your story with God. There is always something more.

Reflection: *Where do you sense God's grace meeting you in the moment that changed everything for you?*

Day 2: God Calls You By Name

Reading: Exodus 3:1-11

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

Devotional: After God settled Moses in Midian and helped him rebuild his life, God spoke to Moses from a burning bush. Not “hey shepherd” or “you there”—but Moses. God knew him intimately despite the years and miles, God knew Moses since his birth. When God invited Moses back to Egypt, Moses said no five times. He had built a life around safety, around what he could control. Sound familiar? God sees potential in us that we cannot see in ourselves. When God calls, we may resist because God’s land slides will cover our previous plans. But God’s disruptions are ultimately for our good. Jesus knows your name too. He sees gifts and purposes you’ve overlooked.

Reflection: *What is God calling you toward that feels impossible?*

Day 3: The Journey Takes Longer Than Expected

Reading: Numbers 20:1-13

In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried.

Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. They quarreled with Moses and said, “If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the Lord! Why did you bring the Lord’s community into this wilderness, that we and our livestock should die here? Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!”

Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the tent of meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them. The Lord said to Moses, “Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.”

So Moses took the staff from the Lord’s presence, just as he commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, “Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?” Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”

These were the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites quarreled with the Lord and where he was proved holy among them.

Devotional: What should have been a six-week journey became forty years. Moses went from a short-term mission to a lifetime calling. The people complained endlessly. Moses grew weary. Finally, in frustration, he struck the rock instead of speaking to it as God instructed. In his exhaustion, his cheese slipped off the cracker. Can you relate? Sometimes we handle situations poorly not because we lack faith, but because we’re depleted.

The cumulative weight of disappointment, delay, and difficulty crushes our patience. Here's the grace: God didn't abandon Moses after his failure. The journey continued. Your worst moment of frustration doesn't disqualify you from God's love. Jesus understands weariness. He offers rest, not rejection.

Reflection: *Where are you running on empty right now, and how might God's grace meet you there?*

Day 4: Seeing But Not Entering

Reading: Deuteronomy 34:1-8

Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. Then the Lord said to him, “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 let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.”

And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

Devotional: Moses climbed Mount Nebo and saw the Promised Land stretched before him—the culmination of forty years of leading, suffering, and hoping. But he would not enter it. God called him home from that mountain. This seems heartbreaking, even unfair. Yet Moses died as God's friend, his mission complete. Sometimes God's plan includes seeing the promise without experiencing its fulfillment in this life. You may labor for something you'll never personally enjoy. You may pray for breakthrough that comes after you're gone. This isn't punishment; it's trust. Moses' story didn't end on that mountain—it continued in God's presence. Our ultimate Promised Land isn't earthly; it's eternal. What you build here matters, even if completion comes later.

Reflection: *What are you building or investing in that you may never personally see completed?*

Day 5: Walking Behind Jesus

Reading: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

Devotional: Moses experienced multiple landslides: exile, unexpected calling, wilderness wandering, personal failure, and death before entering the Promised Land. Yet through every valley, God was present. David wrote, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.” Notice he doesn't write around the valley or over it—but through it. Jesus doesn't promise to prevent every landslide. He promises to walk with you through them. You don't need to lead; you need to follow. Behind Jesus, you're protected. Behind Jesus, you have direction. Behind Jesus, even your failures become part of a greater story. Surrender control. Let Jesus navigate your landslides. He knows the way home.

Reflection: *Where are you trying to lead instead of follow?*

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank You that You never abandon us in our landslides—our sudden losses, our long wildernesses, our weary failures. Teach us to walk behind You instead of ahead of You, trusting Your direction even when we cannot see the whole path. When our own strength runs out, meet us with Your grace. Guide us safely home. Amen.