

Session 07

The Next **LEADER**

CENTRAL TRUTH | The Lord, our Good Shepherd, appoints people to lead and care for us.

In this week's passage, God explains Moses's death and tells Moses that his journey up a particular mountain will be his last. Moses had lived a long life, the last forty years spent leading God's people: God spoke to Moses, Moses spoke to the people, and (sometimes!) the people would listen. So, in preparing for his death, Moses recognized that the people needed not just someone in charge but a shepherd: a person who would lead and guide, help and comfort, love and support, fight and give courage. As Moses asked for a successor, God revealed that He had already made His selection. The Israelites then—and God's people today—need a Shepherd to lead them.

REFLECT

What questions do I have about God?

What questions do I have about myself?

What questions do I have about the world and those around me?

NUMBERS 27:12-17

¹² Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go up this mountain of the Abarim range and see the land that I have given the Israelites. ¹³ After you have seen it, you will also be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother was. ¹⁴ When the community quarreled in the Wilderness of Zin, both of you rebelled against my command to demonstrate my holiness in their sight at the waters.” Those were the Waters of

Meribah-kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin.

¹⁵ So Moses appealed to the LORD, ¹⁶ “May the LORD, the God who gives breath to all, appoint a man over the community ¹⁷ who will go out before them and come back in before them, and who will bring them out and bring them in, so that the LORD’s community won’t be like sheep without a shepherd.”

NUMBERS 27:18-21

¹⁸ The LORD replied to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man who has the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him. ¹⁹ Have him stand before the priest Eleazar and the whole community, and commission him in their sight. ²⁰ Confer some of your authority on him so

that the entire Israelite community will obey him. ²¹ He will stand before the priest Eleazar who will consult the LORD for him with the decision of the Urim. He and all the Israelites with him, even the entire community, will go out and come back in at his command.”

NUMBERS 27:22-23

²² Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua, had him stand before the priest Eleazar and the entire community, ²³ laid his

hands on him, and commissioned him, as the LORD had spoken through Moses.

Day01

NUMBERS 27:12-17



Refer to page 5 for a description of the 7 Arrows of Bible Reading.

📍 READ & RESPOND

The Israelites were on the cusp of entering the promised land, and Moses's time to lead them was coming to an end. Before he died, God allowed Moses to see the promised land from a nearby mountain, but he would not be allowed to enter the land because of his rebellion at Kadesh (see Num. 20). Knowing his life and leadership were coming to a close, Moses asked God to commission a new leader for the Israelites who would lead them into the land so that "the Lord's community" would not be like sheep without a shepherd. We'll see this week that God chose Joshua to shepherd the Israelites into the promised land.

🔄 What kind of leader did Moses request to guide the Israelites?

← Moses was not allowed to enter the promised land because of an earlier sin. What did this moment show the Israelites about the importance of obeying God exactly?

→ What is an area of your life where you need to look ahead, trust God's plan, and let go of control like Moses had to do?

📍 MEMORIZE

On a piece of paper, write down **Numbers 27:17** five times. Doing this makes all the different parts of your brain turn on at the same time, which forces you to think about the information in a much deeper way.

📍 PRAY

Father, You are faithful throughout every journey. Help me to trust Your plan and timing. Put leaders in my life who are trustworthy and godly and who will help shepherd me to know You more.

Day02

NUMBERS 27:18-21

READ & RESPOND

God chose Joshua as the next leader of His people because he was a man in whom “the Spirit” resided. Joshua’s life consistently demonstrated that he was controlled by the power of God. God commanded Moses to publicly commission Joshua by laying hands on him, ensuring all the people recognized him as the chosen successor. Moses was to delegate some of his authority to Joshua, ensuring a smooth transition of leadership. However, unlike Moses, who spoke to God face-to-face, Joshua would rely on the priest, Eleazar, who would use the Urim, a sacred lot system, to seek God’s direction in decision-making. Under this new leadership, God’s people were ready to take the land they were promised.

← Why was it important that the Israelites saw Moses publicly lay his hands on Joshua and give him authority?

↑ What does the phrase “a man who has the Spirit in him” tell you about the most important quality God looks for in a leader?

↓ What does this passage show about how a new leader should feel when taking over?

MEMORIZE

Using your phone, tablet, or computer, write out **Numbers 27:17** in a notes app using emojis. Be creative! Send the emojis to a few friends or family members and see if they can decipher the verse.

PRAY

Lord, thank You for my leaders. Help me recognize the wisdom and authority You place in others and help me follow well for Your glory.

Day 03

NUMBERS 27:22-23

 READ & RESPOND

Moses publicly commissioned Joshua as the new political and military leader for the new generation about to enter the promised land, just as the Lord commanded. Joshua's most important quality was not his military leadership, however, but his unwavering faith in God. This faith was evident even before the commission: Moses had changed his name in Numbers 13, switching it from Hoshea, meaning "salvation," to Joshua, meaning "The LORD is salvation." This name change foreshadowed Joshua's entire future role, for he would bring the Israelites to the promised land not through his own military skill but because his confidence and hope were securely in the Lord.

← Why do you think Moses emphasized that he did as the Lord commanded in verse 22?

↓ Why is it significant that this transfer of power was done in front of the whole community?

↪ Pray specifically for a leader you know, asking God to give that person the wisdom and strength needed for the job.

 MEMORIZE

Let's map out this week's verse. Write out **Numbers 27:17**. Underline the important nouns in the verse. Circle the important verbs. Put an appropriate symbol next to any word that might be important.

 PRAY

Lord, You are my salvation! Help me to have unwavering faith in Your plan and purpose for my life. Like Joshua, I want my confidence and hope in You alone, Father.

PSALM 23:1-6

📍 READ & RESPOND

On Day 1, we read about Moses asking God to provide the Israelites with a leader who would shepherd them. Joshua was a good shepherd for Israel, but that's because his faith was in the Good Shepherd. David's psalm describes how the Lord shepherds His people. He makes sure we have everything we need, gives our souls rest, and always guides us down the right path. Even when we are in a scary place, we don't need to be afraid because He is right there with us, protecting and guiding us. He also gives us great blessings, and His kindness and love will stay with us forever.

↑ What is the most comforting thing the passage tells us about God's constant presence in the scary or bad moments of our lives?

↓ From this passage, what do you need from the Good Shepherd's presence most right now?

→ Where are you struggling to follow God's leading? What is one thing you need to do this week to follow the Good Shepherd?

📍 MEMORIZE

Go for a walk! Recite **Numbers 27:17** aloud while walking. Assign one phrase to a set number of steps (for instance, walk five steps while saying the first phrase).

📍 PRAY

Father, You are the Good Shepherd. In Your presence, I find rest, peace, and comfort. Remind me when life feels difficult that I find refuge in You.

Day**05****MATTHEW 9:35-38** **READ & RESPOND**

In today's passage, Jesus was busy teaching, preaching, and healing thousands of people. He felt great compassion when He saw the crowds because they were like "sheep without a shepherd." Israel lacked adequate leadership. The religious leaders of Israel didn't care for the people's spiritual needs and didn't even recognize the Messiah in front of them. But Jesus was about to usher in a new era of leadership, much like Joshua did for the Israelites. He is the Good Shepherd who protects, guides, and gives His sheep purpose. Jesus now calls His followers to preach and minister to the unreached of the world.



Reread Numbers 27:16-17. What did Moses fear for "the Lord's community"? How has this manifested several generations later in today's passage?



This passage shows Jesus is concerned about both people's bodies and their souls. What does this tell you about how completely God cares for you?



What specific kind of worker (missionary, teacher, preacher) can you pray for this week?

 MEMORIZE

Once you know **Numbers 27:17**, teach it to someone else—a sibling, a parent, or a friend. Explain what it means and why it's important.

 PRAY

Jesus, I praise You for Your compassion for the lost and hurting. Send workers to the unreached around the world and prepare me to be a worker for Your harvest.