



# TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

**The Lord said to Moses, “Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to the rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water...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...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.”**

*Numbers 20:7-12*

## **Moses: Don't hit the rock**

Moses had seen some things! He was called by God from a burning bush. He was a firsthand witness to the awesome display of God's power in the 10 plagues. He walked through the Red Sea on dry ground as he and the Israelites escaped the approaching Egyptians. He trekked through the wilderness for forty years in the same pair of shoes that never wore out. I am sure you wish that was the case with your Jordan's!

God used these experiences to form Moses into a great hero of the faith and a humble leader. But Moses was also a sinner. On the surface his sin didn't seem to be that bad. Sure, God told him to speak to the rock. But what difference did it make if he hit it instead? It didn't seem like that big of a deal, but judging from the consequence—no entry into the promised land—God felt differently about his sin.

Aren't we often tempted to feel the same way about some of our sins? We convince ourselves that they aren't that bad. The only reason I make fun of my teacher is because he/she is weird. That snap I sent out was inappropriate but it goes away after a few seconds. Everyone talks that way. Everyone dresses that way. Everyone watches that show. What's the big deal?

We have the same problem that Moses did. Every time we fail to appreciate the seriousness of our sin, we minimize his commands. God tells us in his Word to be holy, to be perfect. In school a 99% will still get you an A. But with God a 99% means complete failure. The consequence is not just missing out on a trip to the promised land but missing out on eternal life in heaven.

Thankfully, we have a Savior who kept God's commands 100% for us. This perfect Jesus took all of our sins to the cross for us. Even those we don't recognize. He rose for us. Now through the wonderful gift of faith we get what we could never deserve on our own—eternal life in heaven! Heaven and the inheritance waiting for us there far surpasses any promised land here on earth.

So, don't hit the rock. Instead live in a way that gives glory to God in all you do!

**Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, too many times we fail to understand the severity of our sins. Forgive us for those sins we knowingly commit and those we don't even know about. Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, who never failed to keep your commands. He was willing to die so that we could live with you forever in heaven. Work in us to become pure and holy that we may shine like stars in a world that does not know you. Amen.**