

**STORY**

Early Life of Moses - Exodus 1:1 - 2:10

**TEACHER PRAYER**

Lord God, be with me, Your servant, as I bring Your Word of Truth to those placed into my charge. Fill me with Your Spirit that I may lead them to see Your great love for us all in this world of sin. Help me to show them Your wondrous love in Christ Jesus in Whom we are delivered from the bondage of sin. Thus, may Your name be glorified through me and Your kingdom come to many. In the name of Jesus Christ my Savior and Lord. Amen

**VOCABULARY**

*Taskmasters* - Overseers who dealt harshly

*Midwives* - A woman who aided another in child birth

*Ark* - Basket of reeds and water proofing material (pitch)

*Midian* - Midian was a son of Abraham by Keturah (Gen. 25:1-2)

**OUTER AIM**

God's people suffered under Pharaoh and the cruel taskmasters of Egypt

**INNER AIM**

God strengthens His people to do His will and wait with confidence and faith for their deliverance.

**BACKGROUND**

*(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol. 1, pp. 146-151)*

Jacob's family of seventy multiplied as God blessed them. A nation is brought into being. It is estimated that the descendants of Jacob now numbered between two and three million people. This became a deep concern of the Egyptian government. The people of Israel were good workers and provided an excellent work force for the Egyptians.

Nevertheless, there arose a fear that the people of Israel would become more powerful than the Egyptians and dominate them. This resulted in putting in place various work-related practices that grievously burdened the people of Israel. Besides, they tried to limit the growth of the nation of Israel or possibly bring it to extinction. All of the male infants were to be killed at birth. So God began His plan of deliverance of the people of Israel.

vs. 1-7

About 350 years had passed since Jacob's family entered Egypt.

vs. 8-14

Obviously the good relationship that existed between Joseph and Pharaoh was in the distant past. The Egyptian government began to fear the population growth of the people of Israel in the land of Goshen. Would they grow to such an extent that they would become a threat to the nation of Egypt?

To make certain this would not happen the following practices were introduced:

- Cruel taskmasters were placed over them
- Work loads were increased
- Harsh treatment became extreme
- "Hard bondage-in mortars, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field" was their lot.



The ancient Egyptians are known for their genius in erecting massive structures. Some of these huge buildings are still intact and have stood for about five-thousand years. During their erection, thousands of men worked for many years.

Brick making was an extremely laborious task. Clay was dug out of the swamps, worked into large square bricks and placed in the sun to dry. Next, it is thought by some that they were placed into huge kilns and exposed to intense heat for several days. They became as hard as stone.

vs. 15-22

- Hebrew midwives were instructed to kill all of the male offspring
- When the midwives who feared God refused to kill the male offspring, Pharaoh commanded the Egyptians to cast every male child of the Hebrew people into the river.

This might seem strange, but we can well imagine the racist climate which could have been perpetuated by Pharaoh against the people of Israel, for the Hebrews worshipped the one true God and would not join the Egyptians in their idolatry. They likely stayed within their own community and married their own.

Not integrating with the Egyptians likely resulted in a natural resentment against them. It may have become quite easy to convince the Egyptians to carry out such atrocity against these "foreign" people.

2 vs. 1-10

- A man and wife of the house of Levi conceived and bore a son and hid him three months.
- When hiding him became impossible the mother made a little water tight basket, placed her son in it and nestled it in the reeds by the river bank.
- The baby's sister watched over the child from a distance.
- Pharaoh's daughter bathed in the river and spotted the basket and sent a maid to get it.
- They found the male baby. He wept. She felt sorry for the little Hebrew child.
- The baby's sister came and offered to bring a Hebrew woman who could nurse the child.
- Pharaoh's daughter agreed and so the mother of the baby was brought and became the one to care for her own son. The child officially became the son of Pharaoh's daughter who called him Moses.

## **STUDENT PRAYER**

Lord God, You always hear the cry of Your people and come to deliver them. We praise You for coming to us by sending us a Child, Your Son, Christ Jesus. By Him You have delivered us from the bondage of sin, death, hell and the power of the devil. We thank You for this undeserved mercy. And we pray that You will fill us with Your Spirit that do not judge people by the color of their skin or their nationality. Help us rather to share Your love with all people. And so may we live a life of thankfulness by our words and actions. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

## **PRESENTATION**

Because we live in a sinful world, God's people may suffer under cruel and Godless people. We may have no choice but to bear the burdens placed upon us. As we pray to our gracious God we can rest assured that He will deliver us in His own way and time. (Cf. II Tim. 3:10,11) However, regardless of our circumstances we must always obey God rather than man no matter how that will affect us. The Hebrew midwives would not kill the male babies that were born. They were constrained to obey God rather than man.

God saw the mistreatment of His people and planned their deliverance. Notice how God works within the circumstances that exist. In spite of the Egyptian government, God moves people to do what is right. He enters into the very palaces of the Egyptian government to raise up a leader for His people.

## APPLICATIONS

1. Today our government permits the killing of unborn infants. This is called abortion. We believe our government is permitting ungodly action. We oppose this in any way we can.
2. Discuss some of the ways that we can legally do this individually and together with fellow believers.
3. Unlike the Egyptian government our government does not require abortion. Should that ever become the case we would disobey our government.
4. **Examples of murder**
  - a. *Abortion*: murder of an unborn baby
  - b. *Mercy death*: ending the life of a person who is terminally ill--also called "euthanasia."  
*Lynching*: ending a person's life by taking the law into one's own hands.
  - c. *Assassination*: violent murder of a prominent person or a government official for political reasons.
  - d. *Homicide*: another word for "murder." "-cide" at the end of a word means "kill" (patricide, genocide, fratricide, etc). (Martin Luther's Small Catechism, Pastor Mike Sydow, 1988, p.54)
5. God planned our deliverance from the bondage of sin, death, hell and the power of Satan already in the Garden of Eden. In spite of all of the opposition of Satan, the unbelieving world and our sinful flesh God promised, planned and fulfilled His promise of our deliverance in Christ Jesus. We are not in His kingdom of grace and are looking forward to our final deliverance from this world of sin when we are ushered into the mansions of heaven prepared for us all in Christ Jesus.
6. We must realize how serious it is to judge others simply because they are different from us in some way. We need to ask ourselves, "Does God love them?" Well, if God loves them we ought to love them also.

## PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

### Lower

Exodus 20:13 - *You shall not murder,*

Acts 5:29 - *We ought to obey God rather than men.*

### Middle any of the above and...

Romans 8:31b - *If God is for us who can be against us?* (Cf. Rm. 8:31-39)

Psalms 37:5 - *Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.* (Cf. Ps. 37:5-15)

### Upper any of the above and...

I John 3:18 - *My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.* Isaiah 41:10

## HYMN CHOICES

"If Thou But Suffer God To Guide Thee" (TLH #518)

"If God Himself Be For Me" (TLH #528)

"Commit Whatever Grieves Thee" (TLH #520)

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (TLH #262)

# Early Life of Moses

Exodus 1:1 - 2:10

## The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child

God blessed Abraham's family. They grew to be a large nation and were called the Israelites. They had to live in Egypt for a time because there was no food in their country.

At first the Israelites, Abraham's family, were treated well in Egypt. But after many years the king of Egypt, or Pharaoh, became afraid of the large nation. He decided that he would try to make them weak by turning them into slaves. He made them work very hard building his cities. But still, the people continued to grow larger and stronger.

Then Pharaoh thought of an evil plan. He would command that each Israelite baby boy be thrown into the river and killed. Many Israelite babies died because of this plan. But one mother, whose baby was Moses, decided that she could not let her baby boy die. She believed that God would help her think of a plan to save Moses. She hid him for 3 months until he became too big to hide. Then she made a basket out of reeds and filled the cracks with tar so that it would float. She put Moses among the reeds in the river. The baby's sister, Miriam, watched him from a distance to make sure that nothing bad happened to him.

Later, God led the daughter of the evil king near the water, where she found Moses. She felt sorry for him, and took him out of the basket. When Miriam, Moses's sister, offered to find someone to take care of the baby until he was bigger, the king's daughter agreed.

Miriam took Moses back to his own mother! The mother was overjoyed that she could take care of her baby again! She taught him about the LORD and how He would send His Son to die for the sins of the world. When the boy was old enough to leave his mother, he became the son of the king's daughter, but always remembered

what his mother taught him about his LORD.

One day the LORD would use Moses to help His people leave Egypt and go to their own land.

*God's people suffered under Pharaoh.  
God will help those who believe in Him.*

## Passage

Romans 8:31b If God is for us, who can be against us?

## Hymn TLH 648 v. 1

I am Jesus' little lamb,  
Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me,  
Knows my need, and well provides me,  
Loves me ev'ry day the same,  
Even calls me by my name.

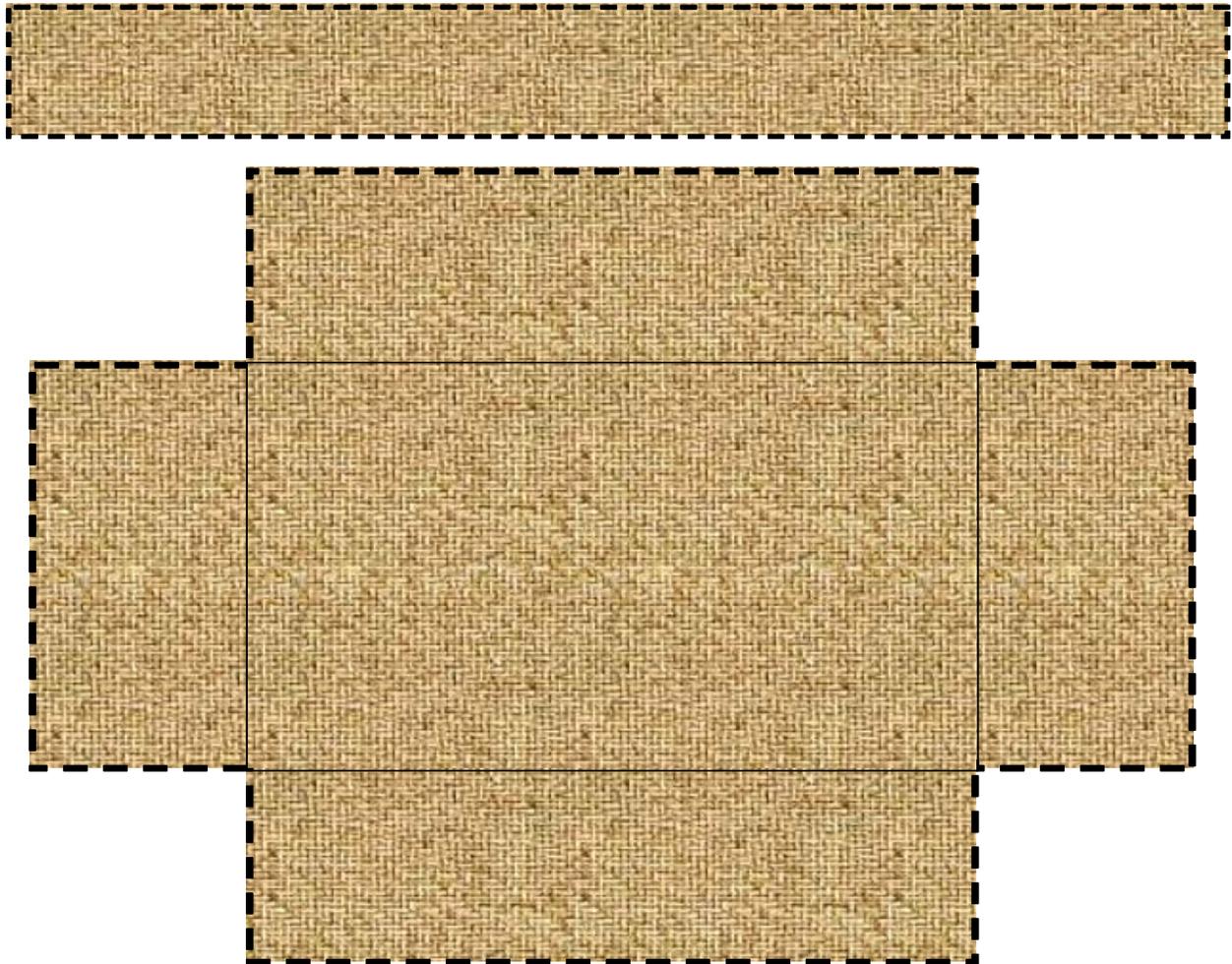
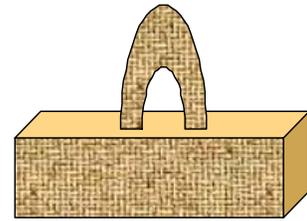
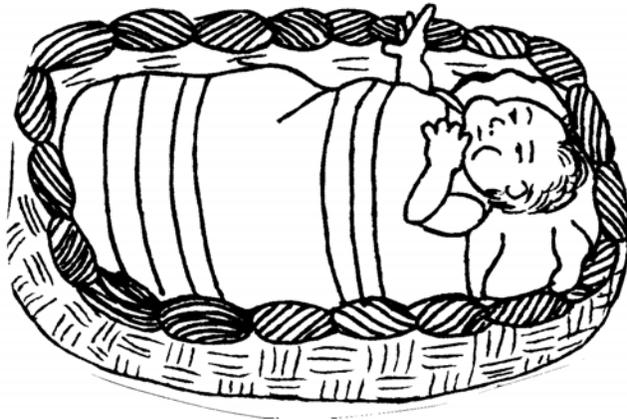
## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for taking care of baby Moses and taking care of me. Be with me until I go to heaven to be with You and all believers. In Jesus' name. Amen



# Classroom Art Activity - Moses in a Basket

Have the children color the Baby Moses and cut out. Cut and assemble the basket and place the Baby Moses in it.





# Early Life of Moses

Exodus 1:1 - 2:10



# The Story

Have you ever been separated from your Mother? She probably didn't leave you on purpose, but in this story, we will learn about a mother that had to leave her child. We are going to learn why she had to leave her baby and how God took care of him.

Even after Jacob and his sons had died, God continued to bless their family. They grew to be a large nation and were called the Israelites. At this time, there was a king of Egypt that did not remember the good things Joseph had done to help Egypt. He became afraid of the large nation, and decided one day that he would try to make them weak by turning them into slaves. He made them work very hard building his cities. But still, the people continued to grow larger and stronger.

Then the king thought of an evil plan. He would command that each baby Israelite boy be thrown into the river. Many Israelite babies died because of this plan. But one mother, whose baby was named Moses, decided that she could not let her baby boy die. She believed that God would help her think of a plan to save Moses. She hid him for 3 months until

he became too big to hide. Then she made a basket out of reeds and filled the cracks with tar so that it would float. She put Moses among the reeds in the river. The baby's sister, Miriam, watched him from a distance to make sure that nothing bad happened to him.

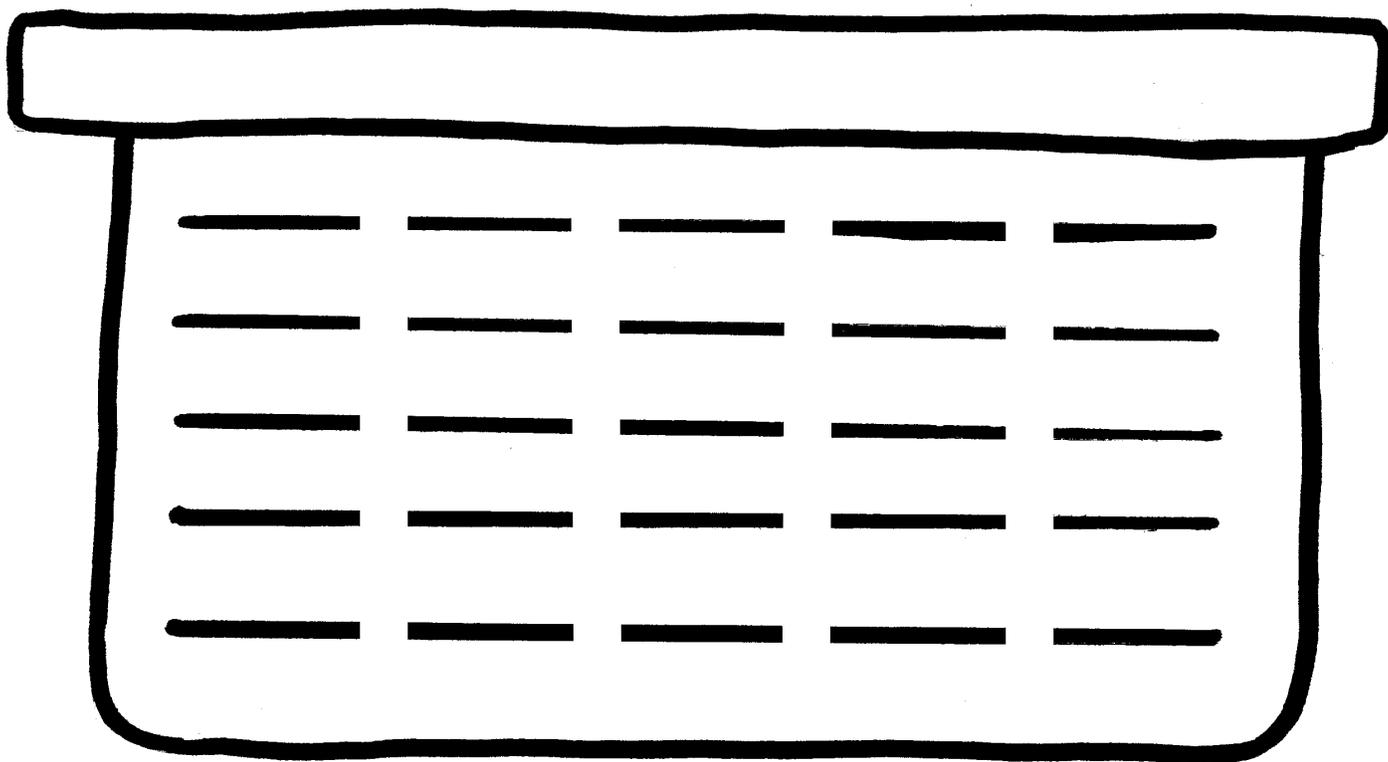
Later, God led the daughter of the evil king near the water, where she found Moses. She felt sorry for him, and took him out of the basket.

When Miriam offered to find someone to take care of the baby until he was bigger, the king's daughter agreed. Miriam took Moses back to his own mother!

The mother was overjoyed that she could take care of her baby again! She taught him about God and how He would send His Son to die for the sins of the world. When the boy was old enough to leave his mother, he became the son of the king's daughter, but always remembered what his mother taught him about his Lord.



**Activity One** - Draw the baby Moses in the basket. Add the reeds and river around him. Cut along the dotted lines and weave strips of brown paper in and out of the slits.



***God's people suffered under Pharaoh and the cruel taskmasters of Egypt.***

***God strengthens His people to do His will and wait with confidence and faith for their deliverance.***

## Passage

Romans 8:31b If God is for us, who can be against us?

## Hymn - TLH 528 v. 1

If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy;  
For when I pray, before me my foes, confounded, fly.  
If Christ, my Head and Master, befriend me from above,  
What foe or what disaster can drive me from His love?

## Prayer

Lord God, we know that You listen to the prayers of everyone who is sad or hurt. We praise You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, so that He could rescue us also from our sins, the devil, and hell. We thank You, because we know we don't deserve any of this. Please work in our hearts that we do not think badly of people because of the color of their skin, or where they are from. Instead, help us to love all people just like You love us. Guide us to show our love and thanks by the things we do any say in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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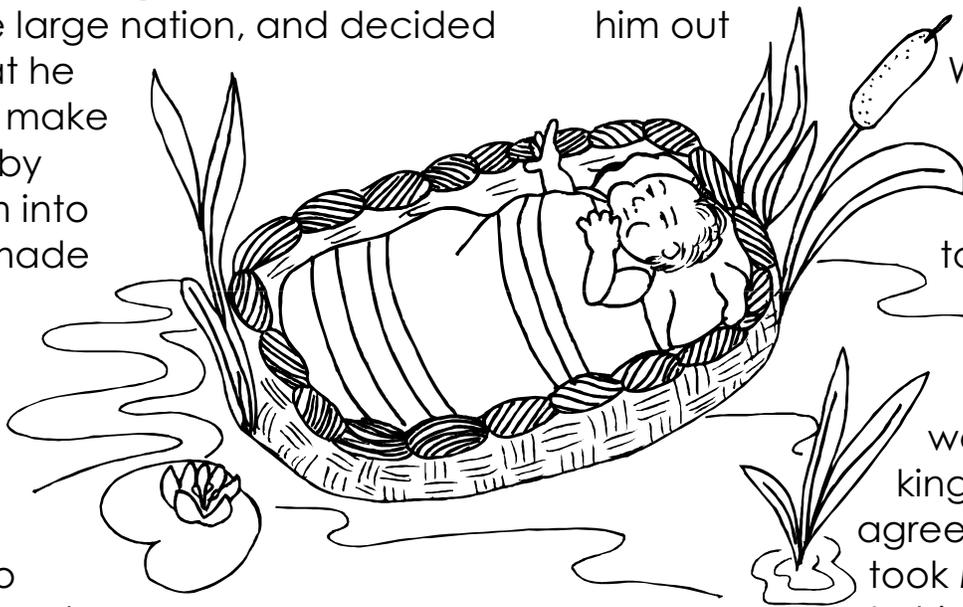
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Moses. She hid him for 3 months until he became too big to hide. Then she made a basket out of reeds and filled the cracks with tar so that it would float. She put Moses among the reeds in the river. The baby's sister, Miriam, watched him from a distance to make sure that nothing bad happened to him.

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mother taught him about his Lord.

**Activity One** - Tell how the words below teach something from the lesson. Then find the words in the puzzle below.

BABY	REEDS	RIVER	EVIL
KING	LORD	MIRIAM	BOYS
MOSES	BASKET	EGYPT	TRUST

Q D B A B Y H R G T U L  
F K F M X M U E N R I O  
K I N G Z O J E K U O R  
V B S O X S N D S S L D  
M E V I L E B S M T S F  
I R E F B S V K I G N B  
L P R D N Y E G Y P T Y  
B Q I E F G E J K J B M  
O S V A M I R I A M K R  
Y C E B B L R D K U A I  
S A R B A S K E T L S M  
Z X H J P Q W R R B K U

*God's people suffered under Pharaoh and the cruel taskmasters of Egypt.*

*God strengthens His people to do His will and wait with confidence and faith for their deliverance.*

## Passages

Romans 8:31b If God is for us, who can be against us?

Acts 5:29b We ought to obey God rather than men.

## Hymn - TLH 528 v. 1, 3

If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy;  
For when I pray, before me my foes, confounded, fly.  
If Christ, my Head and Master, befriend me from above,  
What foe or what disaster can drive me from His love?

I build on this foundation, that Jesus and His blood  
Alone are my salvation, the true, eternal good.  
Without Him all that pleases is valueless on earth;  
The gifts I owe to Jesus alone my love are worth.

## Prayer

Lord God, we know that You listen to the prayers of everyone who is sad or hurt. We praise You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, so that He could rescue us also from our sins, the devil, and hell. We thank You, because we know we don't deserve any of this. Please work in our hearts that we do not think badly of people because of the color of their skin, or where they are from. Instead, help us to love all people just like You love us. Guide us to show our love and thanks by the things we do and say in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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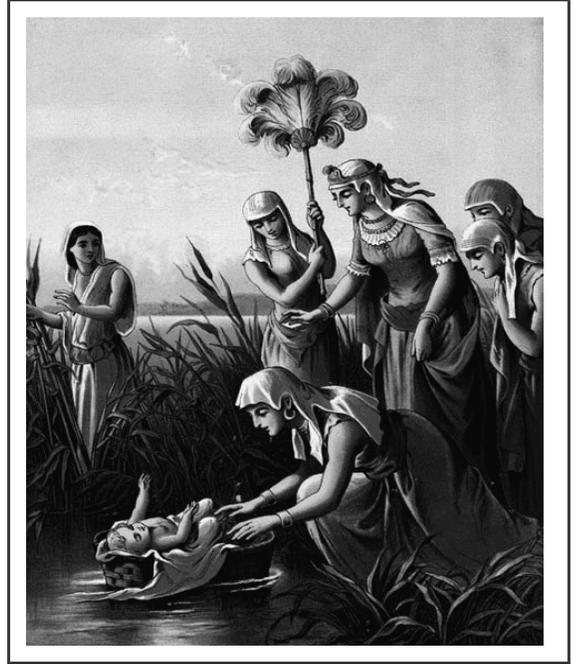
Why is this baby in the water?

Who are the ladies around the baby?

What important part would this baby later have in helping God's people?

## Prayer

Lord, open Thou my heart to hear  
And through Thy Word to me draw near;  
Let me Thy Word e'er pure retain,  
Let me Thy child and heir remain. Amen.



## The Story - Exodus 1:1 - 2:10

Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob: {2} Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; {3} Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; {4} Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. {5} All those who were descendants of Jacob were seventy persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already).

{6} And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. {7} But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

{8} Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. {9} And

he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; {10} "come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land."

{11} Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses. {12} But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. {13}



So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. {14} And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage; in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.

{15} Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; {16} and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." {17} But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. {18} So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?"

{19} And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them."

{20} Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. {21} And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.

{22} So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

{2:1} And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. {2} So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months.

{3} But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. {4} And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

{5} Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. {6} And when she had opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

{7} Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"

{8} And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. {9} Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. {10} And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."



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**Outer Aim - God's people suffered under Pharaoh and the cruel taskmasters of Egypt.**

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**What the Story Tells Us** - Fill in the Crossword Puzzle below with words from the WORD BOX. Then unscramble the letters in the dark boxes to complete the phrase under the puzzle. (Four letters have been done for you.)

EGYPT	MOSES	HEBREW	MIRIAM	BASKET
NILE	BOYS	SAVIOR	TRUST	

Across:

- \_\_\_\_\_ kept watch over Moses while he was in the reeds.
- Moses' mother made a \_\_\_\_\_ with reeds and tar to keep Moses safe.
- We can \_\_\_\_\_ that the Lord will take care of us.
- The Egyptians were instructed to throw the baby boys into the \_\_\_\_\_ River.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ midwives refused to obey the Pharaoh.

Down:

- \_\_\_\_\_ became the son of the Pharaoh's daughter.
- Pharaoh commanded that all of the Hebrew baby \_\_\_\_\_ be killed.
- The Israelites lived in the country of \_\_\_\_\_.
- God used the time Moses spent with his mother so that he could learn about his \_\_\_\_\_.

W \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_

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**Inner Aim God strengthens His people to do His will and wait with confidence and faith for their deliverance.**

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**What God's Word Tells Us** - Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Moses' mother place him in a basket in the Nile River?
2. Moses' mother was breaking an Egyptian law. Was Moses' mother right in doing this?
3. Was why it so important that Moses not die?

Discuss these sinful types of murder. Then look up Matthew 5:44 and fill in the blanks of how God wants us to treat others.

Suicide - ending one's own life

Abortion - murder of an unborn baby

Mercy Death - ending the life of a person who is terminally ill - also called "Euthanasia"

Lynching - ending a person's life by taking the law into one's own hands

Assassination - violent murder of a prominent person or a government official for political reasons

Homicide - another word for murder "-cide" at the end of a word means "kill" (Patricide - killing of one's father, Genocide - killing of a particular racial group, Fratricide - killing of one's brother, etc.)

Matthew 5:44 "But I say to you, \_\_\_\_\_ your enemies,  
\_\_\_\_\_ those who curse you, \_\_\_\_\_ to those  
who hate you, and \_\_\_\_\_ for those who spitefully use you and  
persecute you.

## Passages

Romans 8:31b If God is for us, who can be against us?

Acts 5:29b We ought to obey God rather than men.

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I build on this foundation, that Jesus and His blood  
Alone are my salvation, the true, eternal good.  
Without Him all that pleases is valueless on earth;  
The gifts I owe to Jesus alone my love are worth.

## Prayer

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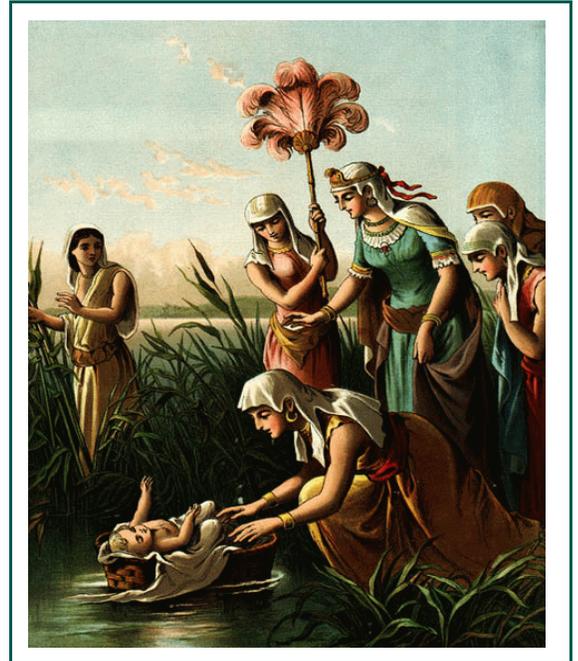
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{15} Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; {16} and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." {17} But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. {18} So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?"

{19} And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them."

{20} Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. {21} And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.

{22} So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

{2:1) And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. {2} So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months. {3} But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. {4} And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

{5} Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. {6} And when she had opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

{7} Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"

{8} And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. {9} Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So



the woman took the child and nursed him. {10} And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

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**Outer Aim - God's people suffered under Pharaoh and the cruel taskmasters of Egypt.**

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**What the Story Tells Us** - Answer these questions about the story. Discuss the answers together.

1. Pharaoh was hoping that the Israelites would become weaker and die if he worked them harder? Why did this *not* happen?
2. Why do you think the Egyptians hated the Israelites so strongly?
3. Were the midwives sinning when they disobeyed the command of the Pharaoh that ruled over them? Support your answer with a bible passage.
4. If bad things happen to a nation, does that mean that God is angry at them? Explain your answer by examples in the story.

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**Inner Aim** God strengthens His people to do His will and wait with confidence and faith for their deliverance.

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**What God's Word Tells Us** - Look at the passages on page 3 and tell who these apply to in the **STORY**, and how they apply to **YOU**. The first one has been done for you.

Passage	Applies to in the <b>STORY</b>	Applies to <b>YOU</b>
<i>Romans 8:31b - If God is for us, who can be against us?</i>	God's people had God on their side protecting them against the Egyptians.	God is protecting us from our enemies.
<i>Exodus 20:13 - You shall not murder.</i>		
<i>Acts 5:29b - We ought to obey God rather than men.</i>		

<i>Psalms 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.</i>		
<i>1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.</i>		

## Hymn - TLH #528 v. 1, 3

If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy;  
For when I pray, before me my foes, confounded, fly.  
If Christ, my Head and Master, befriend me from above,  
What foe or what disaster can drive me from His love?

I build on this foundation, that Jesus and His blood  
Alone are my salvation, the true, eternal good.  
Without Him all that pleases is valueless on earth;  
The gifts I owe to Jesus alone my love are worth.

## Prayer

Lord God, You always hear the cry of Your people and come to deliver them. We praise You for coming to us by sending us a Child, Your Son, Christ Jesus. By Him You have delivered us from the bondage of sin, death, hell and the power of the devil. We thank You for this undeserved mercy. And we pray that You will fill us with Your Spirit that do not judge people by the color of their skin or their nationality. Help us rather to share Your love with all people. And so may we live a life of thankfulness by our words and actions. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.