

GOD PROTECTS BABY MOSES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 1:8-2:10



Salvation comes from God in the least likely way.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

God blessed Israel and they multiplied – In spite of the cruelty of the Egyptian slave masters, God blessed Israel and they multiplied and became a great nation within Egypt.

Pharaoh feared and tried to destroy Israel – After the people of Israel had been in Egypt for more than 300 years, Egypt received a new king who did not know Joseph and the way he had served Egypt. Afraid of the force the people of Israel were becoming within Egypt, the Pharaoh ordered the destruction of every son. He was trying to kill people who belonged to the Lord. In his desire to control the Israelite population, he was in direct opposition to God, who was prospering them. Though he commanded the midwives to kill the newborn boys, the midwives feared God and did not obey his wicked command. As a result, Pharaoh commanded “all his people” to cast their baby boys into the river but let their girls live.

God brought salvation through a baby – In an ironic turn of events, God not only thwarted the plan of Pharaoh, he did so right under his own nose. Moses’ mother placed him in a basket and set it afloat on the river near where Pharaoh’s daughter bathed. Moses was spared and his faithful mother was paid to nurse her own child! God honored this mother’s faith. In this way Moses was saved by God and would one day be used by God to save his own people.

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today’s lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God’s greater plan of redemption.

Like Jesus, Moses grew up to be a mediator between God and his people. Like Jesus Moses’ life was threatened from the very beginning. God saved Jesus by having Joseph flee to Egypt and God saved Moses from the destruction of the Pharaoh by hiding him in Pharaoh’s own home. Moses was no ordinary child; he would grow up to become the savior of Israel. Jesus was no ordinary child, He would grow up to become the Savior of the world.

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ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Isaiah 7:14

Connecting the passage to Christ:

There is only one man who was born of a virgin: Jesus. Isaiah also tells us that His name would be called Immanuel, God with us. Jesus is the only person to fit that description.

Questions for reflection:

- How does this passage relate to Jesus? (Jesus was the only man born of a virgin and the only one who can be rightly called Immanuel.)
- Where in the New Testament do we discover that Jesus was born of a virgin? (Matthew 1:23 is the passage which directly links Jesus to the prophecy in Isaiah. Luke 1:35 tells us that Jesus would be conceived not by man but by the Holy Spirit.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.



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ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

MAKE A BASKET

Supplies

- large stack of newspapers
- stapler

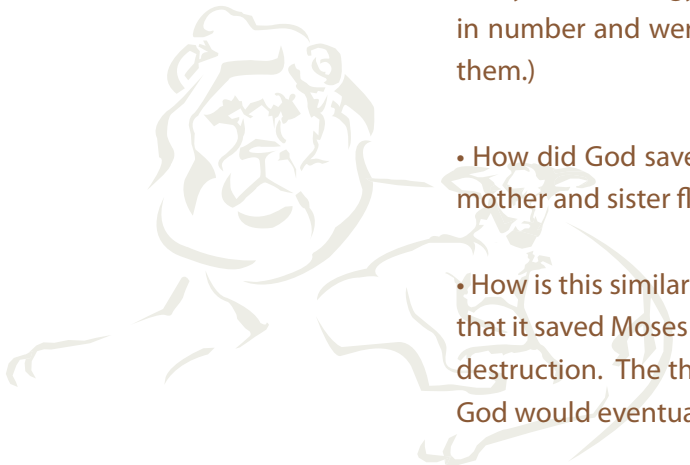
Divide the class into groups of 4 to 5. Explain to the class that you are going to have a basket-making contest. Each of the groups represent a family in Egypt around the year 1526 BC. They are trying to weave a basket as fast as they can to provide a way for their baby to float down the river.

A simple plaited basket can be made out of newspaper by creating two separate components. First the ribs can be made from rolling up an opened sheet of newspaper. Take two of these and make a cross. Take two more and make a second cross. Lay the second cross over the first to form a star-like pattern. A staple can be used to hold these together. Smaller strips of newspaper can be rolled or crumpled to form the material woven over and under these ribs. If you want a little extra help, check out a book on basket weaving from the library or do a search on the internet.

Tell the teams they have 10 minutes to make a basket. Team members should divide the workload, some making ribs, some the strips for in between. Lay the finished baskets on a table and use them as a backdrop to read the story and talk about all that God did.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Why were the Egyptians afraid of the Israelites? (The Israelites were increasing in number and were causing the Egyptians to fear that they might revolt against them.)
- How did God save Moses from the evil command of Pharaoh? (God had Moses' mother and sister float him down river in a basket.)
- How is this similar to what God did in Noah's day? (The basket was like the ark, in that it saved Moses from destruction just as the ark saved Noah and his family from destruction. The theme of salvation follows God's people, for out of the people of God would eventually come our Lord Jesus.)



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GOD IS A GOD WHO SAVES

Explain to the class that our God is a God who saves.

Have a number of children read the following verses out loud, in order:

Job 5:15

Psalm 7:10

Psalm 18:47-48

Psalm 20:6

Psalm 37:40

Psalm 55:16

Psalm 68:20

Psalm 88:1

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Can you name all the people in the Bible that the Lord saved? (Make a list on the white board of all the people the children can think of. He saved Noah and his family on the ark, He saved Moses and the Israelites from the Egyptians, He saved David and the Israelites from Goliath and the Philistines, etc.)
- Why did God save Moses? (God saved Moses so that Moses could be used of God to both save Israel from the Egyptians and act as a mediator between God and His people. Moses would go between God and His people.)



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SAVING BABY MOSES

Supplies

- one disposable drop cloth
- several sections of newspaper
- three raw eggs
- miscellaneous packing material such as foam peanuts, masking tape, bubble wrap, foam

The object is for the children to protect a raw egg from a six foot drop without the egg breaking. Use salvation language such as, "Let's see who can save the egg from breaking." The object is to help them understand the meaning of salvation while giving you an opportunity to make the point that God is able to save, see Hebrews 7:25.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Who is better at saving, God or man? Why? (God is able to save every time and is able to save anyone in any predicament.)
- What is the greatest thing God saves us from? (The greatest thing God saves us from is the penalty we deserve for our sin. He did this by sending His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sin.)
- What does our salvation by Jesus on the cross have to do with Moses being saved in a basket? (God used Moses leading Israel out of slavery as a picture of God saving us. In addition, Jesus came from the tribe of Judah which was saved from the cruelty of Egypt and delivered by God when the Israelites passed through the Red Sea.)

PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.



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IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children make a baby Moses in a basket out of modeling clay.

FOR OLDER GRADES

Have the children compare Proverbs 16:6 with Exodus 1:17 and tell you how they relate. The proverb expresses that if a man fears the Lord, he avoids evil, just like the response of the midwives to Pharaoh's command. Exodus 1:21 tells us that God blessed the midwives with families of their own.

Ask the children the following questions.

- Why did the midwives fear God? (They feared God, who could bring judgment on them for them sinning. They believed God knew everything they did and would know of their evil deeds.)
- What stands in our way of fearing God? (Often fearing man stands in our way. We become more concerned with what men around us will do and say in response to something we do. Instead, we should be more concerned with what God says about a particular topic.)

Look up Proverbs 29:25 to see what the Bible says about the fear of man.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Save – The word save means rescue and is often used in the Bible to talk about how God works to spare the life or suffering of a person. Joseph tells his brothers that God sent him ahead of them to Egypt to save lives. What good would it do a man to be saved from all earthly harm only to die an eternal death? The greatest peril that God saves us from is the penalty of our sin (see Psalm 39:8). Hebrews calls this being saved completely (see Hebrews 7:25).