

God Takes Care of Baby Moses

Overview



Materials You'll Need

- 8 basket patterns
- brown construction paper
- scissors
- glue



Scriptures

Ex 1:6-2:10

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God takes care of His people especially in times of danger.

Behavioral Objective(s)

To list the things God provides for us; to thank God for caring for us through prayer.

Memory Verse

"For He cares for you." (1 Pet 5:7b)



Bible Knowledge

Moses

Moses' parents were Jochebed and Amram. They were both from the house of Levi (Ex 2:1). His brother was Aaron and his sister was Miriam. When Moses was born, his sister was likely in her teens and Aaron was three years older than Moses (Ex 7:7). Although Moses' mother tried to hide him, after three months, she realized it would be impossible to continue doing it. Therefore she built a small basket, hoping that someone would find Moses and rescue him.

The tiny, papyrus reed boat that held baby Moses was put together with asphalt and pitch. The reeds, which grew as tall as sixteen feet, could be gathered in swampy areas along the Nile. Thus a tiny basket hidden among the reeds would be insulated from the weather and difficult to see.

When Pharaoh's daughter found the baby, she recognized him as a child of a Hebrew. This is because a Hebrew baby would have been circumcised on the eighth day. Once she unwrapped the

clothing, she would have known immediately by the "special mark." Pharaoh's daughter explained that she named the baby Moses because she "drew him out of the water." In Egyptian, the name Moses was probably related to the word meaning "born." In Hebrew, the name Moses means "he who draws out."

Some think Pharaoh's daughter was the daughter of Ramses II, a very cruel Pharaoh who would have made life miserable for the Hebrew slaves. In any event, the Bible records that the more the king afflicted them, the more the people of God grew in number. That is why Pharaoh gave orders to have all the male babies killed. At first, he enlisted the help of the midwives. But because they feared God, they did not do as the king had commanded them. Because his first plan did not work out, Pharaoh gave additional orders to have all the male babies drowned. Ironically, Moses was saved out of the waters by an Egyptian.



Understanding Your Students

Young children may have a difficult time realizing that they receive things from God and not necessarily from their parents. Because they have a hard time comprehending the intangible (i.e. God), they instinctively turn to thanking their parents or others for certain blessings they have received. As their teacher, we will need to get them into the habit of thanking God for everything; yet, reinforcing the fact that they should also thank their parents and others for their kindness.

Teach the children that God is the source of all. He gives us whatever we need. He knows us inside and out. God is also the one who gave us our parents. They should thank their parents, but they should

always thank God first.

We can develop this attitude in the classroom through songs of thanks, through prayers of thanksgiving, and through verbally expressing thanks to God for things in our life.

We can also have the students create their own "I thank God for..." posters. On a sheet of construction paper, have the children create a thought web using "I thank God for..." as the center of the web. Around the center message, encourage the children to link illustrations of different blessings (food, shelter, family, etc.) rather than materialistic blessings (toys, fashion, wealth, etc.).

When these displays are finished, have the children share their thoughts. Then post these up around the room. End with a prayer to thank God and everyone in their lives.



Vocabulary

The Israelites

God's special chosen people

Slave

someone who is forced to work; they cannot do whatever they want, they need to listen to their master



Before You Teach

When we read the story of how Moses was saved, we will automatically think that it was the hand of God who delivered him from certain death. Of course, everything is under the control of the almighty Lord, but both Moses' mother and Miriam played important roles as the story unfolded.

First, it was Moses' mother who was brave enough to save her baby by hiding him for three months. Then, she took a huge chance by putting him in the river, not knowing what Moses' fate would be. Afterwards, Miriam watched her baby brother as he floated among the reeds. When the princess saw the basket and the baby, Miriam took the initiative to suggest a nurse who might care for Moses. As a result of his mother's actions and his sister's words, Moses' family was reunited.

When we read the story, it seems matter-of-fact that the two women did what they did. After all, Moses was a part of the family. But it took a lot of courage for Moses' mother to save her child despite the Pharaoh's orders. It was even harder for Miriam to come forward and speak to the daughter of Pharaoh at the river. We don't know exactly what they were thinking, but at the most critical moments, they made a decision to do something.

Like these two women, special opportunities may come our way unexpectedly. We need to be alert for these opportunities God gives us. God used Moses' mother's courageous act of saving and hiding her baby and Miriam's bravery in speaking up to begin His wonderful plan of rescuing His people from the bondage of Egypt. It is possible that God has already given us special opportunities to do His work. We need to pray that we can be sensitive to His calling and be ready to do His work and will.



Bible Story

The Israelites Increase in Number

Do you remember the Bible story of Joseph? His family was in trouble because there was no food to eat where they were living. But God had already planned it so that Joseph was the governor of Egypt, where there was a lot of food. Joseph ended up saving his family by bringing them all to Egypt. But Joseph's family were Israelites. They were not Egyptians. Sometimes, people don't like it when strangers live in their land. But the Egyptian people respected Joseph because he was their governor. They did not mind that his family came to live in their land.

As the years went by, Joseph and his brothers got old and died. But their families got larger and larger. They had many children and after many years, there were a lot of Israelites living in Egypt. By then, there was a new king of Egypt who did not know about Joseph and how he had helped the Egyptians a long time ago. This new Pharaoh only saw that there were a lot of Israelites living in the land of Egypt. He was afraid that the Israelites would become too powerful and take over the whole land for themselves. He came up with a plan. He made all the Israelites into slaves. That means that the Israelites were forced to work very hard in the hot sun everyday. They farmed the land and built houses. They were not allowed to do whatever they wanted to like before. They had to listen to the Egyptian people now. This made the Israelites very sad. But God still looked after them and the number of Israelites kept growing and growing.

Moses is Born

The Egyptians became even more afraid because there were just too many Israelites. Finally, the king ordered that all newborn Israelite boys must be drowned in the river! How horrible! Pharaoh wanted to kill all the baby boys so that the Israelites would not get stronger with more and more people. But God did not want this bad thing to happen to His people. Today we will learn how God protected His people by keeping a special baby boy from being taken away by the king's soldiers.

One Israelite family living in Egypt was about to

have a baby. The mom and dad already had a girl and a boy. This was going to be the third child. When the time came, the mommy gave birth and the baby was a boy! The mom and dad were both very proud. He was strong and healthy. They counted each of the baby's cute little fingers and little toes. They hugged him and kissed him. When the little baby boy was sleeping, his parents would bring the baby's brother and sister over to watch him. But they had to do all of this in secret. This is because they knew that the king of Egypt wanted all the new baby boys to be killed. So this family tried their best to hide him. They had to hide him from the king's soldiers.

Every day the baby's parents kept him a secret. Miriam, his sister, would run to the house and help hide her baby brother when she saw the king's soldiers marching closer. When the baby cried, the baby's mom would hold him close and whisper, "Hush. I love you and I don't want you to be taken away. Don't cry." For a while it was easy to hide the baby because he was small and wasn't very loud. But the baby kept growing bigger and stronger each day. He laughed louder and he cried louder. He didn't know that he had to be quiet. So keeping the baby a secret was harder.

Moses is Put in a Basket

Then the mother thought of a good idea. She got a strong basket. What do you think she did with it? She wrapped her baby in a nice, soft blanket and carefully put him into the basket. When no one was looking, Miriam helped her mother carry the baby in his basket and brought him to the river. They put the basket down on the water between some tall leaves so it was hard to find. The basket rocked back and forth on top of the water, like a little cradle bed. The baby's mother asked Miriam to stay behind and hide in the tall grasses to watch over her little brother. The mother hoped someone would find the baby and rescue him from the king's soldiers.

Moses is Saved

Miriam watched the little basket-boat as it rocked gently in the water. Everything was quiet and peaceful. Suddenly, she heard someone coming! Who was it? Would they find the basket? What would happen to her brother? Miriam

became even more afraid when she saw who it was. It was the princess, the daughter of Pharaoh, and her helpers. They were walking next to the river when the princess saw the little basket hiding in the tall plants.

"What is that?" she asked, pointing to it. "Get it for me."

One of the princess's helpers brought the basket to her. When the princess opened it, she saw the little baby boy! It was an Israelite boy, and he was crying. At this moment, Miriam felt very sad. After hiding her brother from the king for so long, it was the king's daughter who found him! Miriam was sure that her brother would be taken away. But then the princess said something that surprised her.

"Oh, poor darling baby," the princess said. "Don't cry. I will take care of you. You will be safe with me."

Miriam could hardly believe her ears. If the princess wanted to keep her baby brother, then they would never have to hide him from the king's soldiers again! Miriam knew that God had something for her to do, right then. She bravely walked up to the princess and asked, "Would you like me to get someone to take care of this baby for you?"

The princess was surprised to see a little girl come out of the tall grass. However, the princess thought it was a wonderful idea for someone to take care of the baby while he was still little. She said, "Yes, go and find someone for me."

Can you guess whom Miriam went to find? Yes, she ran home as fast as she could go to tell her mother everything that had happened.



Check For Understanding

1. **What did the new king of Egypt want to do when the Israelites kept growing in number?** (He made them into slaves and ordered all the baby boys to be killed.)
2. **When Moses was born, was he killed?** (No.)
3. **What did his family do to keep him safe?** (They hid him everyday from the king's soldiers.)

"Mother!" she called out. "The princess has found our baby! She wants to keep him but she needs someone to take care of him. Mother, come and take care of him for the princess. Then our brother will be safe."

Miriam grabbed her mom's hands and they hurried down to the river where they saw the princess playing with the baby boy. He was laughing as the princess tickled his little feet.

When the princess saw Miriam's mother, she asked her, "Will you take care of him for me?"

"Yes, oh yes!" answered the mother. She was so happy to see her little baby was safe.

The princess said, "Take care of him until he gets bigger. Then I will take him to the palace to live with me. I've given him a name too. I'm going to call him Moses."

That night the baby's real family was happy. They praised and thanked God. Baby Moses was back with them and they didn't have to hide him anymore! Now that baby Moses belonged to the princess, Pharaoh would not hurt him. God had kept him safe.

God Keeps Us Safe

In today's story, we learned how baby Moses was saved by God. Even though he was supposed to be killed, his family tried their best to hide him. Later, the princess found him and wanted to keep him. God always has the best plans for us. Miriam and her mother trusted that God would take care of Moses and He did. We should also trust that God will help us when we need help. God always keeps His promises.

4. **What did Moses' mother do when he was too big to hide?** (She put him in a basket and floated him along the river.)
5. **Who found the basket?** (The princess, Pharaoh's daughter.)
6. **What did the princess want to do with the baby?** (She wanted to keep him.)
7. **What did Moses' sister, Miriam say to the princess?** (She asked the princess if she needed someone to take care of the small baby for her until he grew up.)

8. **Who kept the baby safe? (God.)**
9. **How do you think Moses' real family felt after the princess wanted to keep him?**

(They were happy because now they did not have to be afraid of Moses being killed by the king's soldiers.)



Life Application Story

God Takes Care of Us

One Saturday, when Cathy went to her elementary class at church, she was surprised to see Mrs. Richardson in her room. Mrs. Richardson usually taught the older kids and did not often come into Cathy's class. Cathy looked around and did not see her regular teacher, Mrs. Laurie. Something didn't feel right. When all the kids had settled down, Mrs. Richardson spoke.

"I am sure you are all surprised to see me here this morning. Mrs. Laurie is very sick today and could not come to church. She has a fever and runny nose. She is coughing a lot too."

"Is she going to be okay?" asked one of the students.

"I am sure she will be just fine after she rests for a few days. In the meantime, she has already told me what you are going to do today, and I am sure we will have a great time," said Mrs. Richardson.

The class continued and the kids did have a great time with Mrs. Richardson. But throughout the class, Cathy really missed Mrs. Laurie. She wanted to know if she was okay. After class, Cathy asked her mom, Mrs. Hayes, if they could drive to Mrs. Laurie's house to visit her.

"That's a good idea," said Mrs. Hayes. Soon other parents and their children wanted to go too. The children in her class really missed Mrs. Laurie. They all wanted to just say hello to her and ask how she was doing.

When they got to the house, Cathy ran up to the front door and rang the bell. Mr. Laurie, Mrs. Laurie's husband, opened the door.

When he saw the children he said, "Wow, what a nice surprise! Are you here to see Mrs. Laurie?"

"Yes, Mr. Laurie, we wanted to see if Mrs. Laurie is feeling better. Can we see her?" all the

children asked.

"Why don't you all wait in the living room while I go check on Mrs. Laurie and see if she is awake," Mr. Laurie told the children. He invited everyone to come into the house.

After a few minutes, Mr. Laurie returned and said, "I'm sorry, children. Mrs. Laurie would like to see all of you very much but she is also afraid of giving you her cold. She said, 'thank you' to everyone for coming."

The children, especially Cathy, looked sad. She had really wanted to see her teacher.

"Don't worry, children. Jesus will take good care of Mrs. Laurie just like He takes care of you when you are sick. Please pray for her. That's the best thing you can do to help her now," continued Mr. Laurie.

"We will, Mr. Laurie. We hope Jesus heals her sickness quickly so we can have her in church soon," said Mrs. Hayes. "Please tell her to take care."

All of the children nodded their heads.

"Children, thank you for coming. I'm sure Jesus will take care of her and so will I. May Jesus remember your kindness and love," said Mr. Laurie.

The children and the parents waved good-bye and left. Although Cathy was a bit sad that she couldn't see Mrs. Laurie, she knew God would take care of her. She was glad about that.

Questions to Think About

1. **Why was Mrs. Laurie not in church?** (She was sick.)
2. **What did Cathy and her friends want to do after class?** (They wanted to visit her.)
3. **How come Mrs. Laurie did not see them?** (She did not want them to get sick.)
4. **What did Mr. Laurie tell the kids?** (God would take care of Mrs. Laurie. They could pray for her to help her get better.)
5. **What has God done to take care of you?** (Allow students to answer.)



Activity 1

Baby Moses

Look at the picture of Moses in the basket. Color it in. Help the students spell Moses' name.



Activity 2

How Do Mommy and Daddy Take Care of You?

Look at each picture. How do your parents take care of you? Talk about each picture with the students. After the discussion, ask each student to give thanks to God for their parents. They can say, "Dear God, thank you very much for giving me loving parents. They take good care of me every day! Thank you Lord Jesus!"



Activity 3

Baby Basket

Materials:

1. basket pattern
2. brown construction paper
3. glue
4. scissors

Directions:

1. Cut along the heavy lines of Diagram A.
2. Glue Diagram A onto a brown piece of construction paper to make the basket more sturdy.
3. Cut along the edge of Diagram A again to eliminate the unwanted brown construction paper.
4. Now cut slits on the lines that run next to the words "Flap C" on both edges of the basket.
5. Gently bend up Flap C.
6. Form the basket by joining Flaps A and B at the arrows (Diagram A) and tape them together (Diagram B).
7. Repeat for the other side to complete the basket.
8. As the students are creating the basket, remember to talk about how Moses was saved.



Optional Activity

Princess Crowns

Materials:

1. 11 x 22 inch sheets of construction paper (you may need to tape two shorter strips together to make the crown long enough)
2. markers
3. stickers
4. glitter
5. glue
6. stapler or tape
7. scissors

Directions:

1. Give each student a strip of construction paper. Explain they will be making crowns.
2. Provide the students with stickers, glitter and markers to decorate their crowns.
3. Wrap each student's crown around his or her head so it fits just right. Remove the crown and staple it (or tape it) at the correct size.
4. As they make their crowns, talk about how the princess helped Moses. God saved Moses by allowing the princess to find him in the basket.

Activity 4:1

Baby Moses

Look at the picture of Moses in the basket. Color it in.
Help the students spell Moses' name.

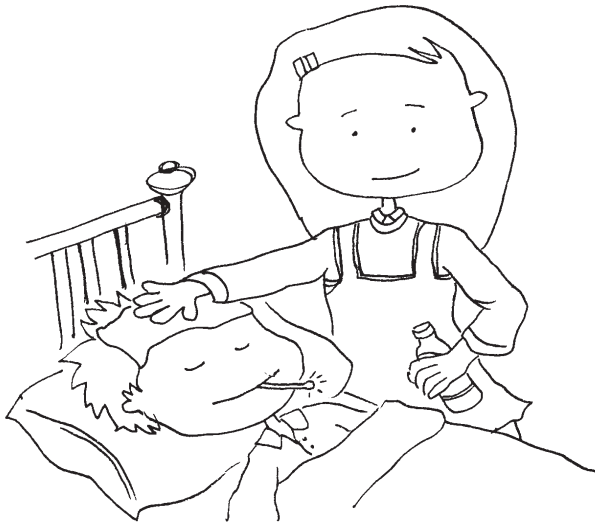
This is baby



Activity 4:2

How Do Mommy and Daddy Take Care of Me?

How do your parents take care of you? Talk about each picture with the students. After the discussion, ask each student to give thanks to God for their parents. They can say, "Dear God, thank you very much for giving me loving parents. They take good care of me every day! Thank you Lord Jesus!"



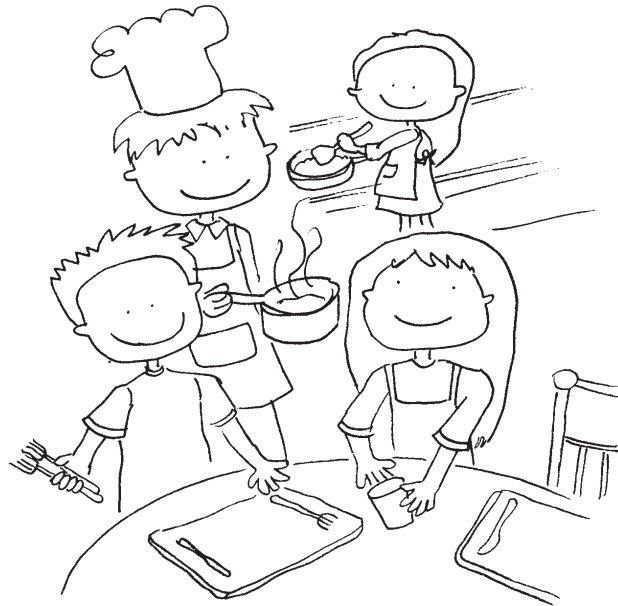
1. Mom takes care of me when I am sick.



2. Dad takes me to the Library.



3. Mom takes a bath for me everyday.



4. My parents cook dinner for the family.

Activity 4:3

Basket Pattern

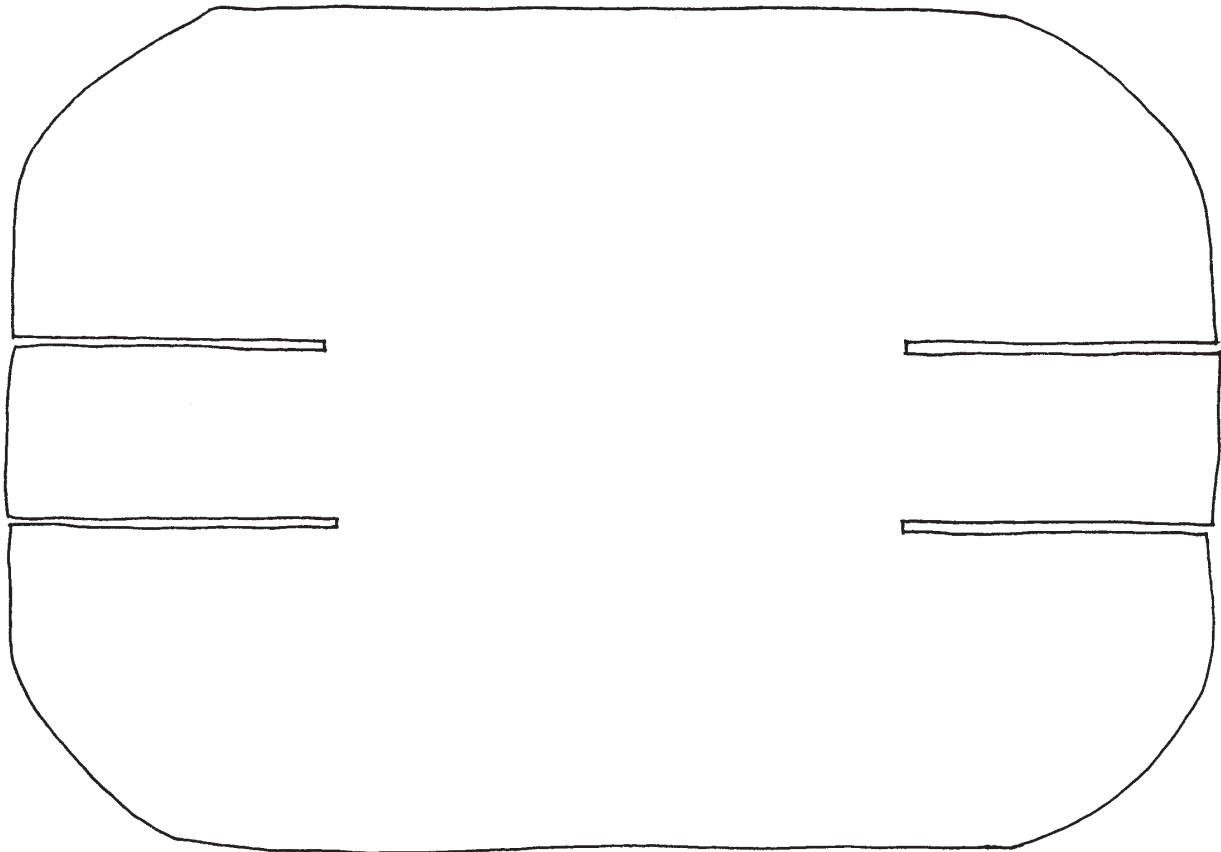


Diagram A

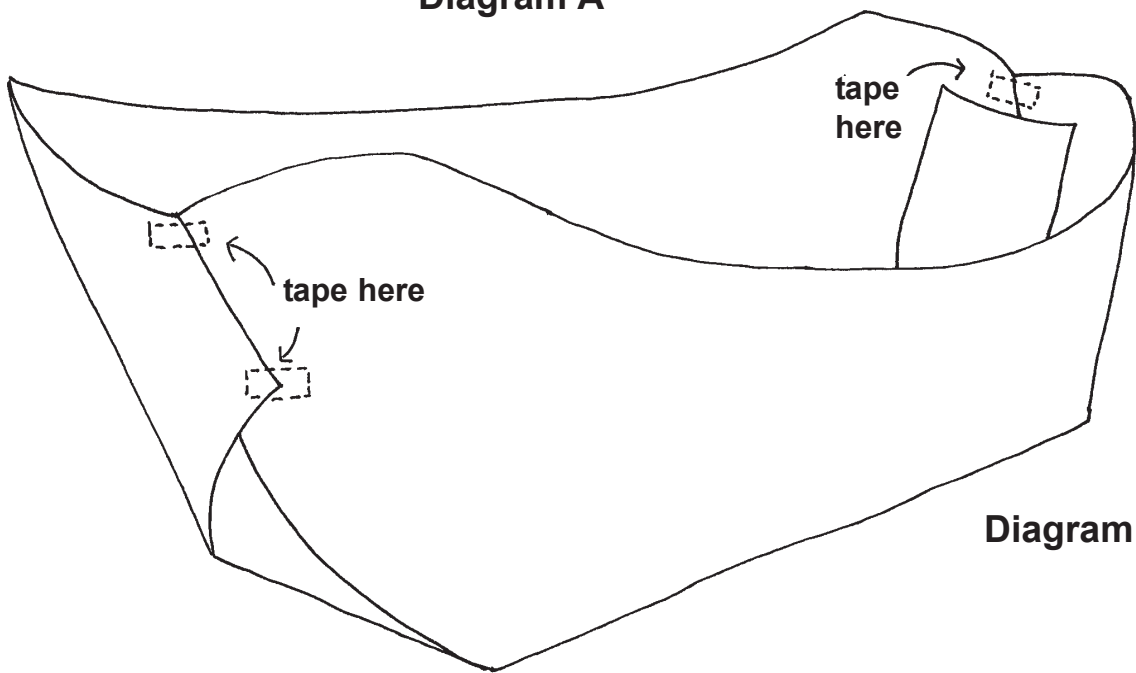


Diagram B

