

LESSON 11

THE BABY MOSES

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Between Genesis and Exodus

The timespan between the death of Joseph and the death of Moses was about 300 years, or a total of 430 years from Jacob's migration to Egypt until the Exodus. During that time, the number of Israelites had grown from the seventy that left Canaan to approximately three million. For seventy people to reach this number in 430 years, it would be necessary for the population to double about every twenty-five years, which is possible.

After the death of Joseph, a change of dynasty made the Israelites a race of slaves. The new Pharaoh was afraid the Israelites were becoming so numerous that they would join Egypt's enemies in war and drive the Egyptians out, so he made them slaves and oppressed them to kill their spirit and stop their growth.

Slavery

Slavery was an ancient practice used by almost all nations to employ conquered people and other captives. Most likely, the great pyramids of Egypt were built with slave labor. Although Israel was not a conquered nation, the people were foreigners and thus lacked the rights of native Egyptians. There were different levels of slavery in Egypt. Some slaves worked long hours in mud pits while others were skilled carpenters, jewelers, and craftsmen. Regardless of their skill or level, all slaves were watched closely by ruthless slave masters, supervisors whose main assignment was to keep the slaves working as fast as possible.

The Papyrus Basket

Egyptian river boats were made with papyrus reeds and waterproofed with tar. The reeds, which grew as tall as sixteen feet, could be gathered in swampy areas along the Nile. Thus, a small basket hidden among the reeds would have been well-insulated from the weather and difficult to see.

BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 1:1–2:10

BIBLE TRUTH

God always helps us in times of trouble and gives us peace and strength to face all our fears.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To face our fears with God's help when dealing with difficult problems in life.
2. To trust that with God, all things are possible.
3. To know that God will provide a way out if we rely on Him.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be of good courage, and He will strengthen your heart."

(Psalm 31:24)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord, we thank You for giving us our loving families to take care of us and teach us the word of God. Please help us to be obedient to our parents and kind to our brothers and sisters. We know that you have given us our families, and want us to love and care for them. May Your Spirit guide us as we learn about how Moses' sister cared for him. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

At this age, your students may have a difficult time dealing with unexpected difficulties. Instead of figuring out a way to solve the problem, they might run from the problem and become lost. After Moses' mother put him into the river, Miriam stayed to watch over him. She saw that Pharaoh's daughter had discovered Moses. She quickly took the initiative to suggest a nurse (her mother) who could care for the baby.

The Bible doesn't say whether Miriam was afraid to approach the Egyptian princess, or whether the princess was suspicious of the Hebrew girl. But Miriam did approach her, and the princess sought the services of Miriam and her mother. Their family was thus reunited.

Special opportunities may come our way unexpectedly. Emphasize to your students not to let the fear of what

might happen or what has happened cause them to miss an opportunity. We should be alert for the opportunities that God gives us, and take full advantage of them.

Moses' mother was reunited with her baby! God used her courageous act of saving and hiding her baby to begin His plan to rescue His people from Egypt. Tell the students that God doesn't need much from us to accomplish His plan for our lives. Focusing on our predicament may paralyze us because the situation may appear humanly impossible. But relying on God and His power will help us see the way out. Right now we may feel unable to see through our troubles. Focus instead on God, and trust Him to lead us out. That is all He needs to begin His work in us.

VOCABULARY

Pharaoh: the king of Egypt

force: to make someone do something they don't want to do

ruthless: having or showing no pity or mercy

command: to order someone to do something

midwife: a person who helps women in childbirth

refuge: protection from something harmful

REVIEW

Do you remember what we learned last week? That's right—Joseph and his family came to Egypt. There, Jacob passed away and Joseph brought him back to Canaan to bury him. After Jacob died, the brothers were all very afraid of Joseph. Why do you think his brothers were afraid of him? [Have students turn to their neighbor to share their answer.] The brothers were afraid because they thought that Joseph was probably going to get even with them for what they had done to him. Joseph was a powerful man in Egypt and now their father was dead. But what did Joseph do instead? [Encourage students to respond.] He forgave his brothers and said that he would take care of them and their children. Soon, Joseph grew old and passed away, too. Jacob's family stayed in Egypt for a long time after that, and the number of people grew and grew until they became a great nation.

BIBLE STORY

A New Pharaoh

Soon, the Pharaoh who Joseph had served also passed away. A new Pharaoh who didn't know anything about what Joseph had done for Egypt now came to power. He didn't know how God had worked with Joseph so that he could interpret dreams, or how Joseph had helped save many people from famine.

The new Pharaoh didn't like the Israelites. (The Israelites were also called Hebrews.) The new Pharaoh was afraid of how many Israelites there were. He thought that one day they might join another country and fight the Egyptians to drive them out of the land. How do you think

this Pharaoh planned on dealing with the Israelites? Raise your hand to share if you have any ideas. [Write down students' ideas on the board, and then tell them what Pharaoh actually did.] Pharaoh ended up making the Israelites work very hard and had slave masters watch over them. The Israelites were forced to make bricks and work in the fields. It was hard work for the Israelites, and they were mistreated in harsh ways.

The Plan to Kill All the Baby Boys

Making the Israelites work hard and treating them cruelly was not enough for Pharaoh. He thought of an evil plan to

stop the growing number of Israelites. Can anyone guess what he was planning on doing? What terrible things did Pharaoh have in mind for the Israelites? [Have students guess what cruel punishments Pharaoh could have had in mind and share them on the board.] Guess what? He planned to kill all of their baby boys. What a terrible thing to do! Hands up if you have a baby brother or sister, or cousin. Hands up if you can think of someone you know who has just had a new baby. Perhaps it's an aunt or uncle in church, or a family friend. Can you imagine just how sad the Israelites must have felt? And just how was Pharaoh going to carry out his plan? Let us have a look at Exodus 1:15-16 and we'll read aloud together. In those days, they didn't have hospitals like we have today. They had women called midwives who would come to help women who were about to have their baby. Pharaoh commanded all of the midwives to kill all the baby boys as soon as they were born.

But the midwives knew that killing babies was wrong in the sight of God. Even though they would get in trouble for not doing what Pharaoh commanded, they didn't kill the baby boys. When Pharaoh realized that there were still Hebrew baby boys living, he called the midwives to him. He asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the Hebrew boys live?"

The midwives answered him, "The Hebrew women are very strong and they give birth before we get there." So Pharaoh could do nothing. God was pleased when He saw that the midwives did what was right and blessed their families. Pharaoh saw that his plan wasn't working. He had to come up with something else. He commanded all of his people, "Every Hebrew boy that is born must be thrown into the Nile River. The girls can live."

A Baby in a Basket

At that time, there was a Levite man who married a Levite woman and she gave birth to a child. It was a beautiful baby boy, and his parents loved him very much. But they remembered what Pharaoh had commanded—they had to throw him into the river. Moses' mother refused to do this and instead hid him for three months. The baby grew bigger and bigger, and his cries grew louder and louder. Moses became so big that his parents could not hide him anymore, so she made a waterproof basket for him. Then Moses' mother put him in it and left the basket near the side of the river among some plants. Imagine just how sad Moses' mother must have been. Imagine what she might have been thinking. What was going to happen to baby Moses? Perhaps no one would find him and he would eventually die; or perhaps a crocodile in the Nile would find him for a tasty meal; perhaps an Egyptian would find him and do as the Pharaoh had commanded and throw baby Moses into the Nile. However, God saw that Moses was a beautiful baby and He had special plans for him.

We'll soon see how God was going to protect Moses. Moses' sister, called Miriam, followed her mother, and

when her mother left, she stayed to watch baby Moses. She didn't want her baby brother to get hurt. She wanted to be there with him for as long as she could.

Miriam stood far away, watching. Soon, an Egyptian woman came with some servants to take a bath in the river. Can anyone guess who it was? It was Pharaoh's daughter! As she was walking along the side of the river, she saw the basket. She asked her maid to get it, then opened the basket and found Moses.

"This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

Moses was crying all alone, and Pharaoh's daughter felt sorry for him. She decided become his mother. But who was going to help her take care of him?

Mother and Son Brought Back Together

Miriam saw all this from far away. She was just one of the Hebrews, a mere slave, but she knew that this was her one and only chance. She had to do this even if she was afraid. She gathered up her courage and went to Pharaoh's daughter. Miriam asked her, "Do you need someone to help you take care of the baby until he gets older? I can find someone for you."

Without questioning her, Pharaoh's daughter said, "Yes, go and find someone."

Miriam was so happy that Pharaoh's daughter agreed! Do you know who Miriam went to find? Her own mother! Pharaoh's daughter unknowingly gave Moses back to his own mother and said, "Please take care of this baby until he grows older, and I will pay you."

So Moses was reunited with his mother! She had thought that she would never see him again, but now God had given him back to her. She took care of Moses until he grew up, and soon, he had to be given to Pharaoh's daughter. That day came and he became the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Pharaoh's daughter gave him the name Moses, which means "drawing out," because she drew him out of the water and saved him. God's protection is always there even when we don't know it! Isn't this marvelous? Miriam and her mother must have been so sad when they thought that baby Moses was going to die. However, God gave them courage, strength and peace in this most difficult time, and delivered Moses from evil. We have to remember that God is our refuge and strength, as our memory verse tells us (Ps 46:1a). This week, everyone should spend some time in prayer thanking God for His protection. Remember, the Lord Jesus can give us peace in our hearts and strength to face all of our fears.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **What happened when the new Pharaoh came to power?** He made the Israelites slaves.
2. **Why did Pharaoh make the Israelites work so hard as slaves?** He was afraid that they would join with another country and fight the Egyptians.
3. **What was the first plan Pharaoh came up with to stop the growing number of Israelites?** He told the Hebrew midwives to kill all the Hebrew boys that were born.
4. **What did the midwives do instead?** They refused to kill the Hebrew boys, saying that the Hebrew women gave birth before they came to them.
5. **When the midwives refused to kill the boys, what did Pharaoh do?** He commanded that all the baby boys be thrown into the Nile River.
6. **Who found Moses and decided to become his mother?** Pharaoh's daughter.
7. **How did God show His protection to baby Moses?** God showed His protection by arranging Pharaoh's daughter to discover baby Moses in the water and also by having Moses' own mother take care of him when he was young.
8. **When do we feel afraid? How can we be more courageous like Moses' mother or Miriam?** Answers may vary.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Be of good courage, and He will strengthen your heart." (Psalm 31:24)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. God will provide a way out if we rely on Him.

Pray to God and ask Him to bring us through trials and problems.

2. Opportunities come from God, sometimes in the form of trials.

Because Moses was found by Pharaoh's daughter, he was "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians" (Acts 7:22). He was equipped and became an instrument of God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

Pray to God to give us opportunities, and to show us what to do with the opportunities that arise. Pray to God and ask Him to show us what He wants us to learn from our trials and problems.

3. Moses' mother and sister both found courage and took the opportunities that God provided.

Moses' mother hid Moses for three months despite Pharaoh's command because she saw that he was beautiful. Miriam, even though she was a Hebrew, found courage to speak to Pharaoh's daughter.

Find courage and take the opportunities that God provides. If anyone lacks courage, they should pray with faith and the glory of God will be manifested.

[Teacher: Read the following testimony to the students and answer the questions that follow.]

Testimony

Sew Chan Lee—Singapore

LIVING IN DARKNESS

It all seems so far away now, almost an unbelievable bad dream. My eyesight started to deteriorate when I was in my mid-twenties, and by 2006, I was totally dependent on other people's assistance in my daily life. I chafed at my helplessness. Enveloped by a despair that I could not shake off, I often felt that life was meaningless. Worse, I became demon-possessed. It was truly and literally a time of darkness.

Pained by my suffering, one of my brothers suggested that I seek the help of the church he attended—the True Jesus Church—to drive out the demon from me. I was so tired of living in my shell of a life that I was willing to try anything. But when I came to church, I came with sorrow in my heart. I also felt so useless because I needed the assistance of our brothers and sisters to bring me to church.

FINDING THE LIGHT

Miraculously, through all the prayers of brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as the laying of hands of preachers and deacons, the devil left my body just two weeks after I came to church in August 2006. Approximately two months later, God granted me the precious Holy Spirit. Thank God, I was baptized into the church on November 26, 2006.

I resolved to myself: "Since I have this precious opportunity to come to church, I must pay attention with all my heart, to know the truth and to understand the Bible better." In this way, I prepared myself to go to church every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. I was determined to learn God's word in order to change and truly become a new creation. By listening attentively to sermons and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I came to understand the Bible better. The word of God was like a light—shining and bringing joy into my heart. Moreover, I learned to trust in God and rely on Him in my life. I tell Him all my sorrows in my daily prayer and ask Him to lead me in all things.

About one year after my baptism, I realized that the sorrow and emptiness in my heart had been replaced with happiness, peace and contentment! My bad dream had turned into a marvelous new life in Christ. When my other brother saw the miracle that had happened to me in the True Jesus Church, he left his old church and came to the true church to "have a look". After careful observation, he was convinced that the truth and the works of God abided in our church; and, after a year, he was baptized into the True Jesus Church.

The downpour of the Lord's abundant grace did not just stop at me and my brothers. It was soon my son's turn to see the light. Given my poor eyesight, my son took it upon himself to pick me up after service and take me home. Since he had to come to church anyway, he decided to come earlier and listen to the sermons. Convinced that there was truly a living God in the True Jesus Church, he was baptized in 2010.

BRINGING THE LIGHT TO OTHERS

Having tasted such wondrous joy and contentment, and seeing the grace on my family, I then resolved to redouble my efforts to pray for my parents and their salvation.

My mother was a Buddhist and my father an atheist. One day, I was talking to one of my brothers about how to preach to our parents. But my brother was skeptical, "How can you preach to an atheist? You will never convince him! You'd probably have to wait for the day that he has an incurable disease." Despite his words, I was not deterred and decided to put in more effort to pray for our father. So, in January 2011, I began to fast and pray for my family every Monday morning.

In June 2011, I returned to Malaysia to attend my mother-in-law's funeral service. During the funeral, I preached to my father. My father's response was unbelievable—he told the rest of my family that he wanted to go to church. The whole family just couldn't believe their ears. When I heard his words, I literally jumped for joy!

I informed the local church and very soon after my conversation with him, various Malaysian preachers began visiting my father. In July 2011, he finally stepped into the True Jesus Church.

On just his second visit to our church, my father saw a vision of Jesus Christ in a bright robe. When he went home that day, he joyfully told my mother that there is indeed a living God in the True Jesus Church. This incident motivated my brother and me to intensify our preaching to our mother. However, she was a tougher nut to crack—she firmly refused to give up Buddhism.

One day in August 2011, my father was driving his motorcycle along a very narrow road that could only accommodate one vehicle at a time. So when he saw a car coming towards him, my father immediately swerved to the left to avoid the car. To his horror, he suddenly realized that he was about to roll down a very deep ravine. At that moment, he felt a strong force pushing his right arm, which caused him to swerve the motorcycle back onto the road, thus saving his life. When he returned home, he told my mother about his close shave with death.

After that incident, my brother and I continued to share many testimonies with our mother. Finally, in September 2011, my mother suddenly announced that she wanted to go to church. Seeing the grace of God upon my father and hearing us continually share God's word had finally changed my mother's mind and motivated her to believe in Christ.

By October 2011, all the idols in my parents' house were taken away. When my father asked to be baptized, the church persuaded my mother to be baptized at the same time. Thank God, in November 2011, both my parents were baptized into Christ. I am now continuing to pray for my parents to receive the Lord's promised Holy Spirit.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD

Through this personal experience, I have learned precious lessons of patience and trust. All things are possible with our Almighty God. He changes a nightmare of existence into a beautiful and meaningful life.

Moreover, our loving heavenly Father is not willing for anyone to perish—so even the most stubborn of our loved ones can come to believe in Jesus Christ if we persistently rely on God and ask for His guidance. Praise Him for all His goodness. Amen!

Discussion Questions

1. From this testimony, what happened to the demons after the church members and ministers had offered all those prayers for this brother? (The demon was cast out.)
2. The brother discovered that he felt a big difference in his life after knowing. What did he discover? (He discovered that the sorrow and emptiness in his heart had been replaced with happiness, peace, and contentment!)
3. How did the brother's own brother decide to get baptized? (He saw how God had healed and changed his brother. He was also convinced that the truth and the works of God abided in the True Jesus Church.)
4. The brother decided to rely and trust in God to help his parents come to know God. What did he do to show that he had faith? (He fasted and prayed for his parents every Monday morning.)
5. How did God turn something impossible to possible? (God changed his parents' hearts and they decided to be baptized after seeking the truth and knowing the true God.)

God is truly worthy of our praise. He will provide a way out for us even if it seems impossible. But we must take the courage to pray and ask God in faith to help us.

ACTIVITIES

1

Switcheroo**Objective:** To allow students to teach the story of "The Baby Moses."

- Students may use the Bible story below as reference.
- Encourage the other students to treat them as real teachers and ask questions.
- You may want to break up the story into sections and let the students be in charge of different parts.

Miriam Helps Baby Moses

Miriam had a job to do. She had to keep her baby brother quiet.
If people heard the baby, they might tell the king.
The king did not want any Hebrew boys to live.

Miriam and her family were Hebrews.
The Hebrew people were God's people.

Mother had fixed a basket bed.
It was like a little boat.
Mother put the baby in it.

Mother and Miriam took the baby to the river.
They put the little basket boat in the water.
Mother told Miriam, "Please watch the baby.
Let me know if anyone finds him."

Soon Miriam saw someone.
It was the princess.
Her father was the king of Egypt!

"What is that in the water?" the princess asked her helpers.
Her maid brought the basket.

The princess opened the basket.
The baby began to cry.
"What a beautiful Hebrew baby," said the princess.

Miriam ran from her hiding place.
She bravely asked the princess, "Shall I get someone to take care of the baby?"
"Yes," said the princess.

Miriam ran to get her mother.
The princess told Miriam's mother, "Take care of this baby. I will call him 'Moses.'"

God kept Moses safe.
Miriam did her part to help.

2

“Little Baby Moses Floats Upon the Water”**Objective:** To review the contents of the story.

This is a rhyme with hand motions. Go through the rhyme and actions once for the students, then ask them to try to do the rhyme and actions with you.

Sleep little baby, floating on the river.	<i>(Make a boat by locking arms; move back and forth.)</i>
Here's your little blankie; Don't want you to shiver.	<i>(Hold yourself and pretend to shiver.)</i>
Don't be afraid; God is watching over you.	<i>(Place hands above eyes and look out.)</i>
He will always help you, in everything you do.	<i>(Hold hands out to side.)</i>
Little baby Moses floats upon the water.	<i>(Make a boat by locking arms; move back and forth.)</i>
Who comes to find him but the king's own daughter!	<i>(Clap.)</i>
She said, "Pretty baby! I'll keep him as my own!"	<i>(Point to yourself.)</i>
"But I need someone to help me 'til he's a little grown."	<i>(Put hands on top of each other, then raise top one up.)</i>
Sister said, "I know someone to help you with the child!"	<i>(Point to yourself.)</i>
Princess said, "Bring her to me," as she gave a smile!	<i>(Motion to come.)</i>
The princess gave the baby back to his own mother.	<i>(Reach out in front of you, as if giving Moses to someone.)</i>
To take him in, feed him, and love him like no other!	<i>(Pretend to cradle a baby and rock back and forth.)</i>
Then when he was older, to the princess he was given.	<i>(Put hands on top of each other, then raise top one up.)</i>
He couldn't see his family at the place where he was living.	<i>(Shake head "no.")</i>
But God was watching little Moses, each and every day!	<i>(Place hands above eyes and look out.)</i>
And God is watching over you, even as you play!	<i>(Place hands above eyes and look out; point to students.)</i>
He is always with you, and He will never leave!	<i>(Hug yourself.)</i>
Now it's time to pray, let's get down on our knees.	<i>(Place hands together to pray then kneel.)</i>

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. True
3. False; the midwives feared God and did not kill the baby boys.
4. courage, strengthen
5. basket, Nile
6. Miriam
7. sorry
8. Moses' mother
9. courage
10. Ask and pray to God for a way out.
11. Answers may vary.

E1 Year 1 Book 2 Lesson 11—The Baby Moses

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God always helps us in times of trouble and gives us peace and strength to face all our fears.

- Lesson Objectives:**
1. To face our fears with God’s help when dealing with difficult problems in life.
 2. To trust that with God, all things are possible.
 3. To know that God will provide a way out if we rely on Him.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 31:24)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : The new Pharaoh wanted to _____.
 - a. Kill all the babies born to the Israelites
 - b. Kill all Hebrew baby boys only
 - c. Kill all Hebrew baby girls only

True or False

2. The new Pharaoh did not know about Joseph and was afraid the Israelites would fight the Egyptians. _____
3. The midwives knew that obeying Pharaoh was right in God's eyes and killed the babies. _____

Fill In the Blank

courage strengthen sorry Nile courage Moses' mother basket Miriam

4. "Be of good _____, and He will _____ your heart." (Psalm 31:24)
5. Moses' mother put Moses in a _____ and set it on the _____ River.
6. _____, Moses' sister, watched from far away to see what was going to happen to Moses.
7. Pharaoh's daughter found Moses and felt _____ for him, so she took him to be his son.
8. Moses' sister went and called _____ to look after Moses.
9. We need to find _____ to use the opportunities God gives us.

Life Application

10. When we face a problem we can't solve, what can we do?

11. Write about a time when your family faced a problem. How did God help? Please write down the details.
