

UNIT VERSE

"If it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve ...

But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15

BABY MOSES**LEADER BIBLE STUDY****LIFE POINT**

We can care for and protect our family members.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Families are a part of God's plan for providing for children's spiritual, physical, mental, social, and emotional needs.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Exodus 1:8-2:10; Numbers 26:59

WEEKLY VERSE

Hebrews 10:24

CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND PREPARATION

(For age-appropriate language, use the Bible story on the following pages.)

When Pharaoh commanded the Hebrew midwives to kill all male babies instead of bringing them safely through delivery, Shiphrah and Puah courageously refused to obey the orders of the most powerful man in the world. Instead, they offered the excuse that Hebrew women were so strong they gave birth to healthy babies before the midwives could arrive! Due to their bravery, these two women saved an untold number of boys' lives.

Not to be outwitted by slaves, Pharaoh abandoned his tactic and issued a new order that "all his people" were to throw every son born to the Hebrews into the Nile. Imagine the terror of a postpartum mother who knew that, at any moment, someone could rip her baby boy from her arms and drown him by order of the king. These were the circumstances into which Moses was born.

The author of Hebrews wrote that Moses' family kept him hidden for three months because they saw that he was *asteios* (Hebrews 11:23). This rarely used Greek word is difficult to interpret, and it conveys more than Moses' physical appearance. Various translations read "beautiful" (CSB; ESV), "no ordinary child" (NIV), "unusual" (NLT), and "proper" (KJV). There was something unique about this baby that made his family believe he was destined for greatness, and they were determined to do whatever they could to save his life.

Jochebed took matters into her own hands and placed Moses in a pitch-covered "ark," demonstrating that, just as God saved Noah and his family (Genesis 6-8), she believed He would save her son. Instead of allowing a cruel king to determine his fate, she trusted God to spare her boy's life. In a surprising twist, God used the compassion of Pharaoh's daughter to reverse Moses' misfortune. Instead of being drowned in the Nile, Moses earned his name by being "drawn out" of the water and adopted into the very family that had plotted his execution. Thanks to the quick thinking of his watching sister, Moses returned to his biological mother for a few priceless years, during which he was physically and spiritually nourished.

How are you trusting God with the lives of those you love? As you pray this week, thank God that no one can thwart His good plans for you and those you love. Ask Him for the strength to trust Him as unconditionally as Jochebed did.



TEACH THE SCRIPTURE

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

- Supplies: baby doll—Hide the doll in the room.
- Inform preteens: "I have hidden a baby in the room."
- You can each ask one 'Yes or No' questions to determine clues for where the baby is." After a preteen asks a question, he can guess where the baby is.
- Tell the preteen who discovered the baby that he can hide it and then answer questions for the next round. Allow time for several rounds.
- Tell preteens that today's Bible story is about a family who cared for and protected a baby.

GETTING TO THE POINT

- Ask the question: "What scares you?"
- Mention something age-appropriate that scares you, such as spiders or snakes.
- Explain: "After Joseph died, the Hebrew people living in Egypt multiplied greatly, and the Egyptians became afraid of them. Because of this, they decided to turn the Hebrews into their slaves and treated them poorly."
- Today we will see how God began to provide for His people through a mother who risked her life to save her son."

LOOK IN THE BOOK

Supplies: 2 baskets; 2 baby dolls; index cards; pencils Invite preteens to read aloud the banner title with you.

Say: "God created families so people can experience his love and protection." Today we will see how God saved a child's life!" Direct preteens to open their Bibles to Exodus 1.

- Open your Bible to Exodus 1 and tell the Bible story in your own words or read it from the back of the Teaching Picture. Inform preteens that they will act out the Bible story as you read it.
- Assign volunteers for various roles: Pharaoh, Israelite people, Moses' parents, Moses' sister (Miriam), and Pharaoh's daughter (the princess.)
- Read aloud the Bible story and allow preteens to act out the story. Show the Teaching Picture.
- Ask: "How do you think the family felt as they placed the baby and his basket near the bank or the Nile River?" (Answers will vary but lead preteens to understand that they trusted God to protect their son.)
- Allow preteens to express what they think might have happened if the Egyptians caught them hiding the baby. Explain: "The Bible does not clearly provide this information, but we can be reasonably sure the baby would have been killed."

- Help kids understand that we can only assume this, because the king had given the command to kill all the Hebrew baby boys, so anyone found going against what the king ordered would be in great danger.
- Explain that Moses' life was saved because his family cared for him and put his needs before their own. Say: "God calls us to care for and protect our family members."
- Ask: 1. "How can you care for and protect your family members? (defend them against bullies, provide help when they need it) 2. "Why is it difficult sometimes to care for your family members?" (You do not always agree with their decisions. You don't always get along with each other) Explain that family relationships can be challenging at times, but God created families to provide one another with protection and care.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why was Pharaoh worried about the Israelites? *(He thought there were too many of them and that one day they would fight against them.)*
2. What terrible command did Pharaoh make about baby boys to the Israelites? *(They must die.)*
3. How did Moses' mother protect her baby boy? *(She hid for three months, then hid him in a basket in the reeds of the river)*
4. How did Miriam help care for and protect her baby brother? *(She watched over the basket in the river and brought her mother to Pharaoh's daughter.)*
5. Who did Pharaoh's daughter ask to care for the baby until he was old enough to join her in the palace? *(Moses' mother)*
6. What does Moses' story teach us about God's care for His people? *(He provides people with families for protection.)*

REVIEW CHALLENGE

- Form two teams. Give each team a basket with a baby doll inside.
- Direct the teams to choose a volunteer to carry the baby in a basket.
- Instruct the volunteers to stand side by side on one side of the room.
- Ask the Review Questions to the teams.
- The volunteer of the team that answers correctly can take a large step forward.
- The team whose volunteer makes it farthest across the room after you ask all of the questions is the winner!
- For a challenge call out a variety of movements across the room such as baby steps, twirls, jumps, and so

UNIT VERSE CHALLENGE

- Form two groups. Place the groups on opposite sides of the room.
- Direct Group 1 to read aloud the first part of the verse.
- Direct Group 2 to read aloud the second part of the verse.
- Instruct both groups to read their parts three different ways: in a whisper, by shouting, and with their eyes closed.
- Invite preteens to explain the verse and how their families are living out the verse or name ways they could improve to live out the verse.

- Encourage preteens to broaden their understanding of the family to include parents, grandparents, or foster parents.
- Mention that God provides the church to serve as a family when parents are absent or are not Christians.



BIBLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. BUILD A WATERPROOF BASKET

Supplies: foil, craft sticks, tape, tubs of water, plastic figures

Provide aluminum foil, craft sticks, tape, shallow tubs of water, and small plastic figures. Challenge preteens to work in small groups to build a basket that floats and keeps a figure dry. Let groups test their baskets, identify any leaks, and make improvements before testing again. Explain that Moses' mother made a basket from bulrushes and coated it with bitumen and pitch to keep water out.

As groups work, ask, "How did Moses' mother and sister show care for him?" Remind preteens that God worked through these people to protect Moses, and invite them to name one practical way they can care for someone in their family.

2. JUMP THE RIVER

Supplies: string—Lay 2 parallel 10-foot pieces of string 6 inches from each other on the floor

Remind preteens that families are part of God's plan for loving and protecting children. Explain that they will play "Jump the River," using two strings on the floor to represent the banks of the Nile River. Invite preteens to take turns jumping across without stepping between the strings or landing on them; anyone who does is out for that round.

After everyone has jumped, move the strings slightly farther apart and repeat, keeping the distance safe and allowing preteens to sit out any jump. When the distance becomes too great to cross, ask, "Why did it become impossible to jump over the river?" Explain that Moses' family took steps to protect him, but they could not control everything that happened and needed God's help.

God worked through Moses' mother, sister, and Pharaoh's daughter to preserve his life, preparing him to one day lead God's people out of Egypt.

3. CREATE A DELIVERANCE SONG

Supplies: markers; paper; pencils; small musical instruments or toys, microphone

Form groups of three to five preteens, and give each group paper and a pencil. Explain that they will work together to create a "Deliverance Song" telling the story of how Moses was rescued from the Nile River. Invite groups to choose a musical style, such as country, pop, or rap, and use provided instruments or pretend "air" instruments.

Have groups write their lyrics, including the Life Point and Scripture verses from today's Bible story. Allow enough time for groups to create, practice, and present their songs, using a microphone if available. After each presentation, invite the other groups to share how they heard the Life Point expressed and something they enjoyed about the song.

Remind preteens that Moses' family loved and protected him and that families are part of God's plan for providing children with love and protection.

4. PLAY THE "RIVER HOP" GAME

Supplies: pencils; tape; paper plates—Tape the paper plates to the floor spaced apart from each other; baby doll

Emphasize that families are part of God's plan for loving and protecting children. Direct preteens to line up on one side of the room to play "River Hop." Give the first preteen a baby doll, and explain that the paper plates taped to the floor represent large lily pads. Challenge preteens to carry the doll safely across the pretend river by hopping from one lily pad to another.

If any part of their foot touches the floor, have them return the doll to the next person in line and take a seat. Supervise for safety, re-tape any loose plates, and time each preteen to see who crosses the river the quickest. After the game, say, "God used Moses' family to protect and care for him. We can also help care for and protect one another in our families.

What is one way you can show care for your family this week?" Encourage responses such as showing respect, helping, or being kind, and invite each preteen to choose one action to practice this week.

5. LOVING STICKY NOTES

Provide paper, markers, and stickers, and invite preteens to write encouraging notes to family members. Encourage them to name something they appreciate about each person or write a message such as, "Thank you for helping me," or "I love spending time with you." Have them plan where to leave their notes at home so each family member will find one.

Remind preteens that Moses' mother and sister cared for him, and we can show care for our families through our words and actions. Ask, "What is something you could do this week to show care along with your note?"

6. WATER COLOR

Supplies: Water color paints, white paper, bowls for water

Invite students to paint their family or the story of Moses using watercolors. Remind preteens that Moses' mother placed him in the river to protect him because she loved and cared for him. Talk with students about ways they can show love and care for their families.