

Sep 13, 2026

Moses: A Baby in a Basket and a Burning Bush
Exodus 1-12

Story: Read the story ahead of time. Practice it. For the younger grades, feel free to summarize, if needed. It's okay to reference the story as you are telling it, but the goal is to know the story well enough that you don't have to read it word for word. :) And, we encourage you to have your Bible open during the telling of the story, so the kids know where this story came from.

★ **Introduction & Story:**

Short recap of Genesis as we move into Exodus. God created the heavens and the earth and made a perfect garden called Eden, where Adam and Eve lived. But they sinned! Sin is anything we think, say, or do that displeases God. When we sin, we are separated from God and there is nothing we can do to fix that.

God promised to send a Savior to allow us to be with God again and while people waited, they continued to sin. Yet God remained faithful to His promise and continued His plan.

Last week we talked about Joseph being put in charge in Egypt. His brothers went there to buy grain during the famine. When they were reunited with Joseph, the whole family moved to Egypt to a land called Goshen. Today, we are going to talk about what happened many years later.

The people who moved there were Jacob's family (Joseph's father). But God had changed Jacob's name to Israel many years before and so the people of his family became known as the Israelites. (Sometimes they were also known as the Hebrews because of the language they spoke.)

While the Israelites lived in Goshen, their families grew and grew.

Exodus 1:7

But the Israelites were fruitful, increased rapidly, multiplied, and became extremely numerous so that the land was filled with them.

The Pharaoh who had liked Joseph so well and had invited his family to come live there had been dead for many years. There was a new Pharaoh. This Pharaoh didn't know about Joseph. He became concerned about how many Israelites there were.

Exodus 1:8-9

A new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and powerful than we are.

This Pharaoh decided that they would treat the Israelites harshly and make them slaves. They would make the people work very hard.

Exodus 1:11

So the Egyptians assigned taskmasters over the Israelites to oppress them with forced labor.

The Egyptians made the Israelites' lives miserable. They had to make bricks all day so that the Egyptians could build more cities and buildings. But even though the Israelites were treated badly and made to do hard work, they still grew in numbers. The Pharaoh became very concerned that the Israelite would form an army and cause a war with the Egyptians. He decided that he would limit the number of babies being born to the Israelite women. He said that if a mother had a girl baby they could keep it, but if they had a boy baby, they were supposed to throw the baby in the Nile River.

Exodus 1:22

Pharaoh then commanded all his people, "You must throw every son born to the Hebrews into the Nile but let every daughter live."

Of course, the mothers did not want to do this. There was a mother who had a baby boy. She hid him for a while, but when she could no longer hide him, she made a basket that she "waterproofed" and put it in the Nile River hoping that someone downstream would find it and rescue her baby. Sure enough, the baby was rescued by the daughter of the Pharaoh.

Exodus 2:5-6

Pharaoh's daughter went down to bathe at the Nile while her servant girls walked along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds, sent her

slave girl, took it, opened it, and saw him, the child — and there he was, a little boy, crying. She felt sorry for him and said, “This is one of the Hebrew boys.”

Pharaoh’s daughter named him Moses. He was raised in the palace as if he were Egyptian, but he always knew that he was an Israelite.

Years later God spoke to Moses in a very unusual way. Moses saw a bush that was on fire, but the bush was not burning up.

Exodus 3:3

So Moses thought, “I must go over and look at this remarkable sight. Why isn’t the bush burning up? ”

God spoke from the bush and told Moses to go to the Pharaoh and ask for the Israelite people to be let go. He wanted them to return to the place where they had lived before going to Egypt. He wanted them to eventually live in Canaan (which was called The Promised Land).

Exodus 3:7-8

Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people in Egypt, and have heard them crying out because of their oppressors. I know about their sufferings, and I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and to bring them from that land to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Moses took his brother Aaron with him, and they talked to the Pharaoh, but the Pharaoh would not let the people go. God sent plagues (miserable circumstances and diseases) to the Egyptian, but still Pharaoh would not let them go.

There were 10 plagues in all.

First God turned the water everywhere in Egypt to blood. Rivers, canals, ponds and even the water in pitchers in their homes were turned to blood.

Exodus 7:19

So the Lord said to Moses, “Tell Aaron: Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt — over their rivers, canals, ponds, and all their water reservoirs — and they will become blood. There will be blood throughout the land of Egypt, even in wooden and stone containers.”

Then God sent frogs, gnats, and flies to Egypt.

Then all the livestock (cattle, sheep, goats) died.

Then all the people developed boils (awful sores).

Then God sent hail that destroyed the crops.

Next came locusts (bugs kind of like grasshoppers) to eat what little crops that were left.

Then darkness fell over the whole land. The people could not see anything.

After each plague, Pharaoh would tell Moses and Aaron that he would let the people go and that they should ask God to take the plague away. But after the plague was gone, he would change his mind.

The last plague was the death of the firstborn son. Even Pharaoh's son died.

Finally, after the last plague, Pharaoh decided that Moses could lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

★ **Connection to God's Overall Story/Plan:**

God was rescuing His people, the Israelites. He was going to allow them to go to the Promised Land. God rescues us from our sin through Jesus. He always keeps His promises.

- Maybe just for the older kids: In Genesis 15:13-14, God told Abraham that his family would be enslaved in a foreign land. God also said He would bring judgment on those that enslaved them. Today's story happens about 400 years after that promise was given to Abraham. God is faithful! He brought judgment to Egypt through the plagues. They were punished for enslaving God's people.

Follow Up: As a church, we are encouraging disciple makers to practice the REAP method as it is one useful tool in learning to read the Bible on your own. Retell, Examine, Application, Prayer. Now this may not be everyone's preference, but it is an easy and consistent way to teach children to pull the meaning out of a passage and not just read it or rely on others to teach them what it means. Trees & Mountains - this is a station.

- ★ **Retell:** Have kids share what they recall from the story. Fill in any major holes they missed.

★ **Examine:**

- Comprehension Questions:
 - Why do you think it was important for Moses to grow up in the Pharaoh's palace?
 - Can you imagine seeing a bush that had fire in it, but was not burning up?
 - Why do you think that Pharaoh did not want to let the Israelites go?
- Ask, "What do we learn about God from this story? What does He do?"
 - God is a just God. He doesn't just love us, but He also disciplines us. The Egyptians were not being obedient and they were disciplined.
- Ask, "What do we learn about humans from this story? What are humans doing?"
 - Humans are not in control - God is. But we have a choice. We can be obedient or disobedient. The Egyptians were disobedient.

★ **Application:** Ask, "What is Jesus asking us to do through this story? Why did God include this in the Bible?"

- This story shows us how God is in control and takes charge of the world. He has a promise to keep - to protect and deliver the Israelites - and He does it!

★ **Prayer**

Memory Verse: Have the kids use the Bible. They should either share or each have one. If kids have their own Bibles, we can encourage them to use it, but sometimes you may just need to use the class set. Trees & Mountains - this is one station.

★ **Verse:** "God replied to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.'" -Exodus 3:14

Memory Verse Practice:

Verse Look Up: Explain the address of the verse (Book Chapter:Verse). Explain whether it's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. Read and explain the verse.

- Rainbow Tip: Not necessary until we split classrooms.

- Fireweed Tip: Put Post-It notes on the book of the Bible for the memory verse. Then have them find the chapter and verse.

Practice the Verse:

- Rainbow: Not necessary :)
- Fireweed: Have the kids read it with you several times. Since they are learning to read, group practice is the focus.
- Trees & Mountains: Kids should be learning the verse and saying it on their own. We will provide activities - pick one to have the kids practice. We will PM provide: fill-in-the-blank verses, phrases for the kids to put in order, lines for the kids to write the verse out, and a worksheet for the kids to say the verse based on just the first letter of each word in the verse.

Books of the Bible:

- ★ If there is time or if kids have mastered the verse, have the kids practice the Books of the Bible. When we are doing Old Testament stories, have them practice the Old Testament; when in the New, practice the New Testament. We will have some activities for them to practice with.
 - Trees/Mountains currently have pencil cases with sets of cards/bookmarks in them.

Sticky Activities: No need to do all of these! Pick which ones work best for your teaching style and time frame! For the Trees and Mountains - there is enough time for two of the stations to do activities.

★ Sensory:

Category	Activity 1	Activity 2
Experiential & Visual	Baby Moses Rescue: Place a baby doll in a basket and let children carefully “float” it in a pretend Nile made from blue fabric.	Burning Bush Story: Create a pretend bush (or use a Christmas tree - ask Erin or Elisabeth for this) and red/orange tissue paper for fire. Let children approach it while you retell God’s call to Moses.

Smell	River/Reeds Smell: Use fresh grass, leaves, or safe herbs for children to smell as you talk about the Nile River.	Campfire Aroma: Let children smell something smoky or a safe woodsy scent (or talk about what a fire smells like) while discussing the burning bush.
Touch	Basket Texture: Let children touch a woven basket and talk about how Moses was placed in one.	Bush Texture: Provide safe leaves, twigs, and branches for children to feel while discussing the burning bush.
Movement	Float Like Moses: Children gently rock side-to-side like a basket floating on the Nile.	Moses' Walk: Create a path through the room. Children follow it while pretending to be Moses traveling toward the burning bush.
Sound	Nile Sounds (can combine with movement): Play or create water sounds while children imagine Moses' basket floating down the river.	God's Call: Call out, "Moses!" and have children respond, "Here I am!"
Crafts	Moses' Baby Basket: Color, cut, and glue Moses' Baby basket and swaddled baby. Once assembled, put baby Moses in his basket.	Moses and the Burning Bush: Color, cut, and glue the activity page.

Send Home Page: Please send home with parents. They are sized 4 to a page.

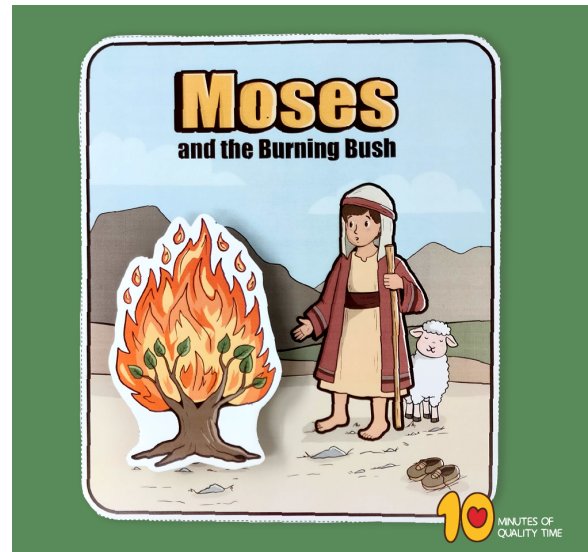
September 13, 2026 Lesson Activities

Moses' Baby Basket Craft:

Have kids color and cut out basket template from the next page. Glue, tape, or staple flaps to form a small rectangular basket (handle or no). Cut out baby Moses (page after the basket) and put him in the basket to float down the Nile.

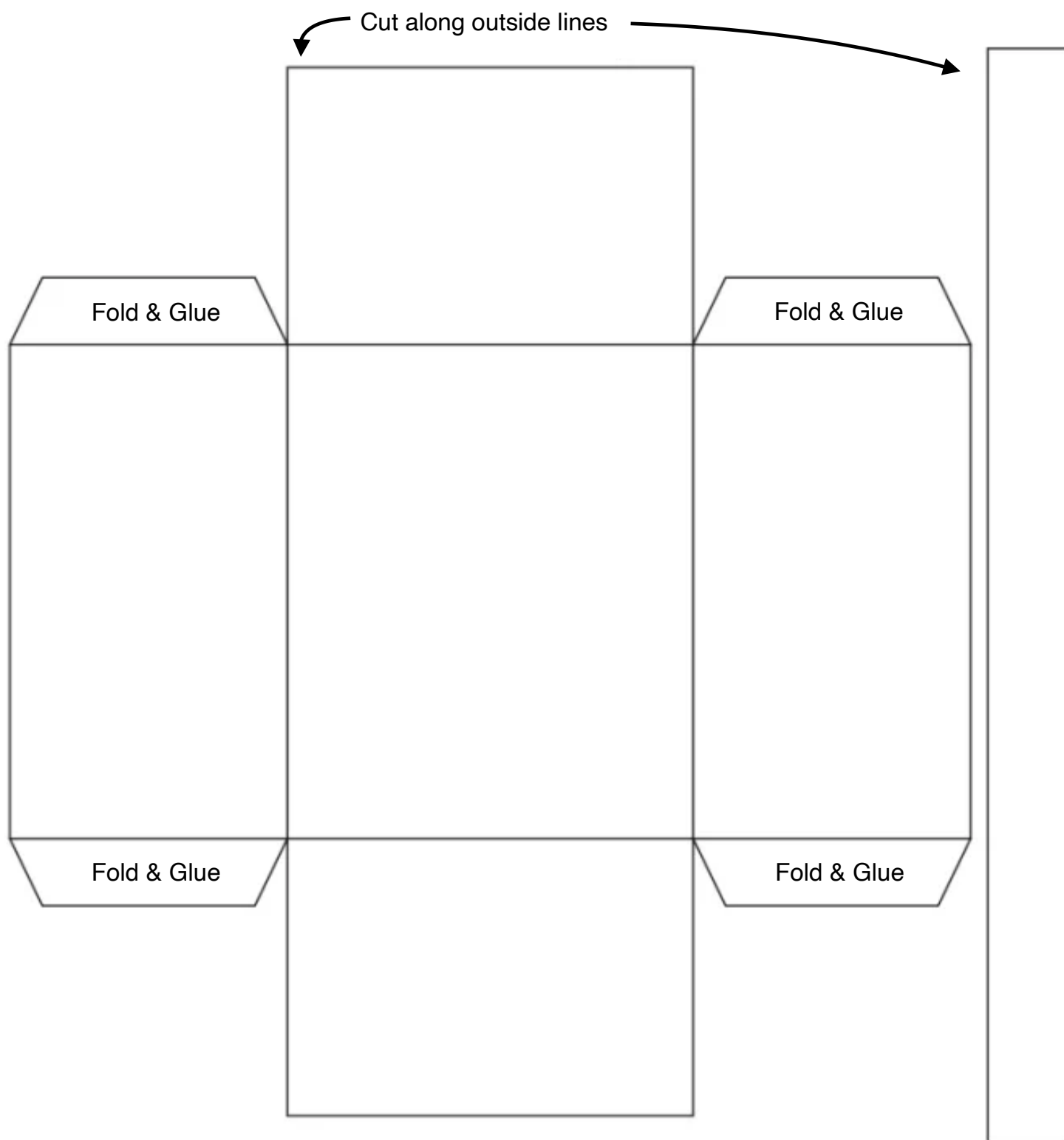
Moses and the Burning Bush Craft:

Color, cut, and glue the burning bush.

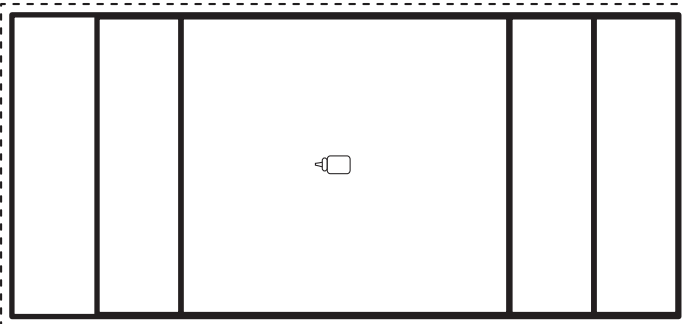


Design Your Own

Moses' Baby Basket

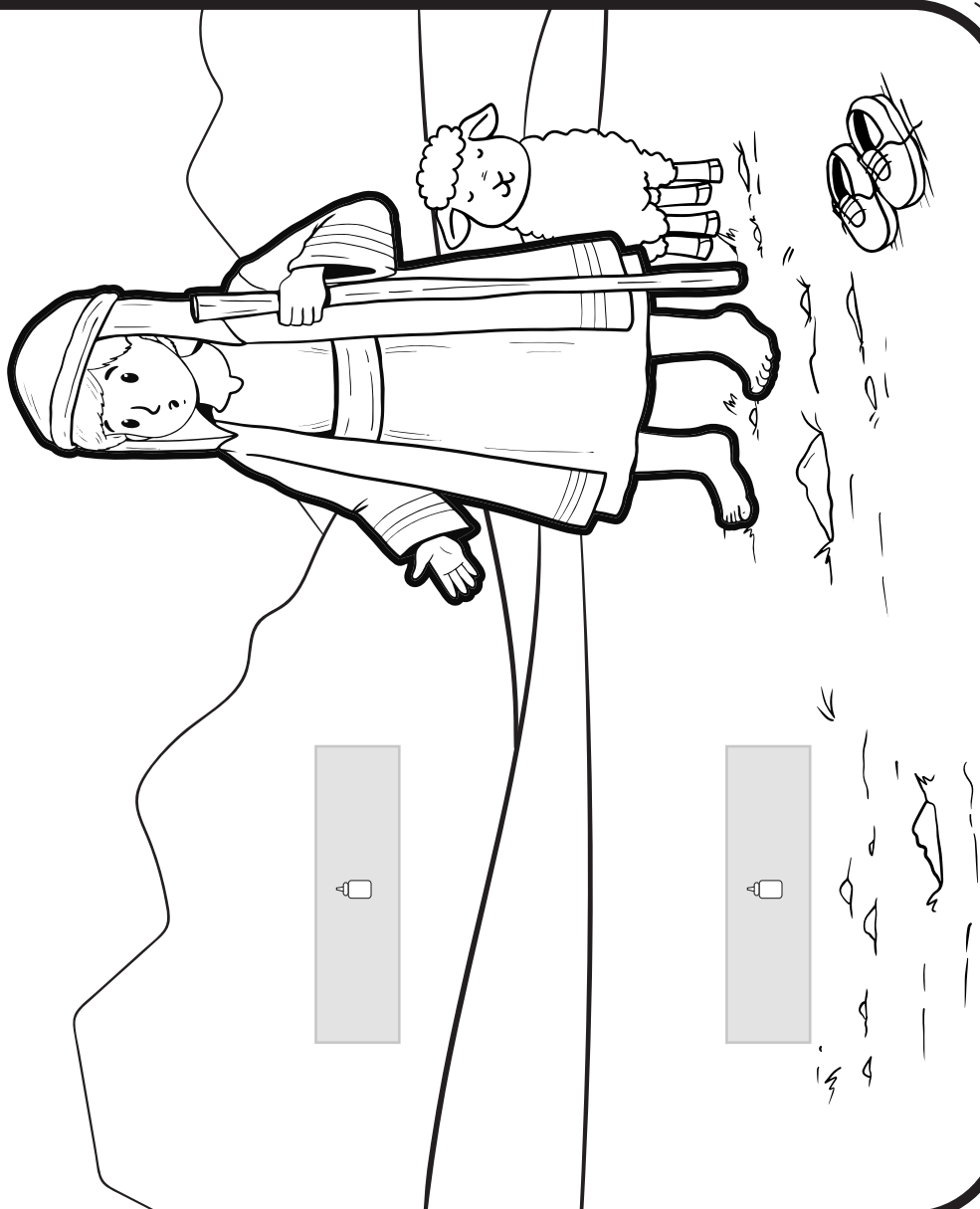






MOSES

and the Burning Bush





Exodus 2:1-10

God Protects Baby Moses

Big Book of Coloring Pages
with Bible Stories for Kids of All Ages
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God Protects Baby Moses

Exodus 2:1-10

Pharaoh was afraid of the Israelites. There were many Israelites in Egypt. Pharaoh thought there were too many Israelites. He planned to stop them by hurting all the Israelite baby boys.

But one mother hid her baby boy from the Egyptian soldiers. When she couldn't hide him anymore, she made a basket that would float. She put the baby in the basket and carefully set it afloat in the river. The baby's big sister, Miriam, hid nearby to watch what would happen.

Pharaoh's daughter came to the river with her servants to take a bath. The princess saw the basket and sent one of her servants to get it. When she opened the basket, the baby was crying. The princess felt sorry for him.

Miriam ran up to the princess and said, "Shall I go and get someone to take care of this baby for you?" The princess said yes. So Miriam brought her mother to the princess. The princess told the mother to take care of the baby. Later the princess named the baby Moses. As Moses grew up, he lived with the princess, right in the Pharaoh's palace!



Exodus 3:1—4:17

God Talks to Moses

Big Book of Coloring Pages
with Bible Stories for Kids of All Ages

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God Talks to Moses

Exodus 3:1—4:17

Grown-up Moses went to live in the desert. He took care of some sheep. One day he saw something strange. A bush was on fire, but it did not burn up! Moses walked near the bush to see why it didn't burn up.

God spoke to Moses from the bush. He said, "Moses, take off your shoes. This is a holy place." Moses knew it was God talking. God said, "Moses, tell Pharaoh to let my people go free." God did not want the Israelites to be slaves anymore. God wanted Moses to be the leader of the Israelites.

Moses was afraid. He was afraid Pharaoh would not listen to him. Moses was afraid the Israelites would not listen to him either.

God told Moses He would help Moses do what God wanted. Moses would even be able to do miracles. Then Pharaoh would do what God wanted. But Moses was still afraid. So God told Moses that Moses' brother Aaron would help him. Finally, Moses was ready to go talk to Pharaoh.

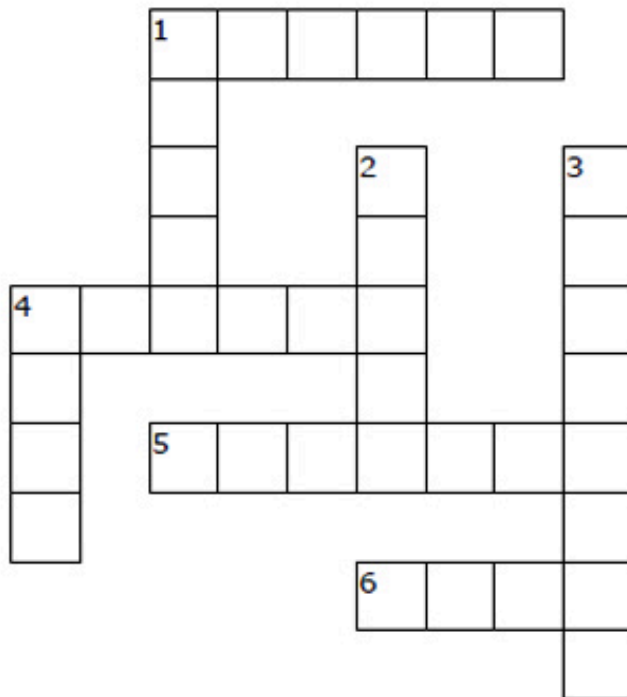
A Baby by the River

When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water." Exodus 2:3 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Exodus 2:1-10



Baby Moses



ACROSS

1. A woman who has given birth to a child
4. A container that is usually woven of straw and has handles
5. A king of Egypt
6. The world's longest river

DOWN

1. An Old Testament Hebrew prophet
2. A clear, colorless, odorless, tasteless liquid (H₂O)
3. A female human offspring
4. A very young child (up to 1 year old)

BASKET
BABY

MOTHER
NILE

MOSES
PHARAOH

DAUGHTER
WATER

Memory Verse:

September 13, 2026

“God replied to Moses, ‘I
AM WHO I AM. This is
what you are to say to
the Israelites: I AM has
sent me to you.’”

--Exodus 3:14

Fill in the Blanks

___ replied to ___, 'I AM
___ I AM. ___ is what ___
are to ___ to the
_____: I AM has ____
me to ____.' -Exodus 3:14



Fill in the Blanks

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*Kids that recite the memory verse
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Free Resource for Families



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