

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Leaving Egypt

THE BIRTH OF MOSES

Exodus 1:1 - 2:10

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter Two, Lesson Eight

[0210]

AIM: to use the story of the birth of Moses to teach my class that it is never right to disobey God.

OBJECTS TO HAVE: A pacifier, a teething ring, and a baby's bottle
A picture of an ark made of bulrushes
Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: How many of you have ever heard a baby cry? Do you have a baby brother or sister, or maybe a baby cousin? It's hard to keep a baby from crying, isn't it? Have any of you ever been given the job of keeping the baby quiet? I mean, a grown-up said to you, "Stay with the baby. Make sure he doesn't cry." That's a hard job, isn't it?

What are some of the things that you might use to keep the baby from crying? (Pacifier, teething ring, baby bottle). Today I am going to tell you about a lady who had to keep her baby completely quiet all day every day. If that baby cried even one time, that lady might be arrested, put in jail, and maybe even killed. Let me tell you what happened.

STORY: Last week I told you how God used Joseph to bring his father and all of his brothers and their families down to Egypt where they could live and have food. For many years the sons of Jacob, known as the *children of Israel*, lived as visitors in the land of Egypt. In fact, they lived there so long that Joseph and all of his brothers died in the land of Egypt, and their children were the grown-ups. The king of Israel, called *Pharaoh*, also died. The new Pharaoh did not know these children of Israel who were strangers in his land. But he did know that their families were growing faster than any other group in Egypt. There were so many children of Israel that Pharaoh began to worry about them. Pharaoh began to worry that some day there might be so many children of Israel that there would be more Israelites in Egypt than there were Egyptians. He worried that if the army of some other country ever attacked the land of Egypt, the children of Israel would turn against Egypt. And Pharaoh knew that there were so many men of Israel that if they ever turned against Egypt, Egypt would be beaten. Pharaoh decided that he must find a way to get rid of some of the children of Israel.

The first thing he did was to make slaves out of them. They would have to work hard all day long building buildings and taking care of the land of Egypt, and they would do all of that work for very little pay. Pharaoh thought that this would hurt the children of Israel. But instead of getting weaker, the children of Israel became stronger when Pharaoh made them slaves!

So then Pharaoh came up with another idea. Pharaoh called in all of the nurses who helped the ladies of Egypt who were having babies. He ordered the Egyptian nurses that every time an Israelite baby was born, they were to keep all of the baby girls alive, but they were to kill all of the baby boys. And they were to pretend that it was just an accident, that they didn't mean to kill them. You see, if there were no baby boys, then in a few years there would be no little boys. If there were no little boys, then in a few years there would be no teenage boys. If there were no teenage boys, then in a few years there would be no men.

But this plan did not work either. These nurses feared God, and they would not kill the Israelite baby boys.

Finally, Pharaoh made a bold law: every Israelite baby boy that was born in the land of Egypt would have to be thrown in the river. This became the law of the land, and the people of Israel were afraid to break the law. Right away, every Israelite baby boy that was born was thrown into the river to drown. What a horrible thing! It looked like this time Pharaoh's wicked plan was going to work.

One day an Israelite lady named *Jochebed* found out that she was going to have a baby. Jochebed already had one son and one daughter. Her other children had been born before Pharaoh made this awful law. Jochebed did not know if her new baby was going to be a boy or a girl, but she did know that if it was a boy, the law required her to throw him in the river.

Jochebed's neighbors and her relatives all came by to tell her, "Jochebed, we hope your baby is a girl, because if it is a boy, you will have to obey the law and throw him in the river." Jochebed could not imagine taking her own baby

boy and throwing him in the river, like the law said to do. But she waited patiently for the day to come, and she prayed every day for God to show her what to do.

Finally the day did come, and a baby boy was born. As soon as Jochebed saw her little baby boy, she knew that she could not obey Pharaoh's horrible law. She knew that it was her job as a mother to take care of that baby boy at any cost. God had given her that job, and she was going to do it.

Kids, some day you may be asked to do something that you know is wrong to do. What should you do? Should you obey God, or should you obey the people who are telling you to do wrong? The answer is simple: **YOU OBEY GOD NO MATTER WHAT!** No matter what anybody else does or says, it is never right to disobey God.

You may say, "But in order to keep these rules, I have to disobey what God says." That's the same decision Jochebed faced, and she made the right decision. She decided to obey God and disobey Pharaoh.

You may say, "But everybody else is doing it! Everybody else is skipping church to go to the beach. Everybody else is going to that party where they have beer and drugs. Everybody else listens to that rock music and rap music. Everybody else goes to the movies." But all of those things are against what God told you to do.

You may say, "But my friends told me that it's okay to smoke a cigarette just one time." Jochebed's friends told her it was okay to kill her baby boy, too, but that didn't make it right.

You may say, "But I'll get in trouble if I don't disobey what God says." Jochebed could have been killed for obeying God. But she didn't care. She knew that she had to do right, she had to obey God. It is our duty to obey God no matter what.

Jochebed did what she knew was right—she began to raise her baby boy. So Jochebed had to keep that little baby quiet all day every day. She could not let anybody hear the baby crying. She could not let the neighbors or people passing by on the street hear him cry. If they heard him cry, they could call the Egyptian soldiers, and she could be arrested, put in jail, and maybe even killed. Every day she rocked him, sang to him, fed him, and did everything she could think of to keep him happy. For three whole months, nobody knew that there was a baby boy living in Jochebed's house.

After three months Jochebed knew that she could not keep the baby hidden any more. But what could she do? She decided that she was going to keep the law and put her baby boy in the river...BUT...first she would build him a little boat that would not sink. She took some big long weeds called *bulrushes*. She cut them to just the right size, and she wove them into a little basket, big enough to hold a baby. Then she put pitch (which is like tar) all over the basket. That would keep it from sinking. When the little boat was all finished, she put her little baby boy inside. Then she went down and put that boat with the baby in it, into the water.

Jochebed called her teenage daughter, and she said, "I have a very important job for you to do. I want you to hide in the bushes and watch your baby brother as he floats in that boat. Make sure nothing bad happens. If you see anything...anything at all...happen to that little boat, you come and get me."

God had heard Jochebed's prayer. At just the right moment, God made sure the right person would come by the river. You see, Pharaoh had a beautiful daughter. Pharaoh's daughter went down to the river one day with her servant. As Pharaoh's daughter came near to the river, she saw something very strange in the water. She told her servant girl, "Go and get that little basket." The servant got the basket and brought it to Pharaoh's daughter. Pharaoh's daughter knew that awful law that her father had made. But when she saw that little baby boy in the basket, her heart was filled with compassion, and she knew that she must help him. Just as she wondered what to do, Jochebed's teenage girl came running up to her. "Ma'am, I can find a Hebrew lady to raise that baby for you."

Pharaoh's daughter said, "Would you do that, please? Tell her I will pay her to do it."

Who do you think that teenage girl found to raise that baby? Her own mom, of course! She ran home and told her mom, "Mama, you're not going to believe what has happened! PHARAOH'S OWN DAUGHTER came down to the river, and she found the little boat, and she wants to pay you to raise the baby! Can you believe it, mom?" Jochebed was going to get paid to raise her own baby boy!

You see, God had heard Jochebed's prayers for many months. And God made sure that, not only would her son live, but he would be raised by his own mommy. And as a bonus, Jochebed would get paid to do it.

God is watching. He is watching everything that happens to us, and He is watching every decision we make. When we decide to obey Him no matter what, He makes sure things turn out the way they are supposed to turn out.

Let's learn our memory verse. **Proverbs 3:6 – In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.**

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THE BIRTH OF MOSES

Exodus 1:1 - 2:10

Teen and Adult Lesson

Year One, Quarter Two, Lesson Eight

[0210]

Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.

- I. **DIFFICULT DECISIONS ARE A TEST OF OUR FAITH.** Hebrews 11:23 tells us that what Jochebed did was an act of faith. Her courageous decision to disobey the law of Pharaoh was the result of her faith in God. When you face a challenging decision regarding your beliefs, understand that God is allowing your faith to be tested.
- II. **TRULY GOD-GIVEN RESPONSIBILITIES NEVER CONFLICT WITH EACH OTHER.** Jochebed had a responsibility as a mother to protect and raise her son. But did she not also have a responsibility as a citizen to obey the law and kill her son? Under normal circumstances, she did have a responsibility to obey the law. But in this case, her God-given responsibility of motherhood came first, which, in God's eyes, relieved her of her responsibility as a citizen in this case. Conflicting responsibilities can be tricky; but seek God's Word and in the end you will find that if God requires you to do a certain thing, He does not require you to fulfill that which conflicts with it.
- III. **AS YOU OBEY, ASK GOD TO SHOW YOU THE WAY.** The idea to build a boat for Moses was brilliant. Where did this idea come from? It came as an obedient young mother pleaded with God for wisdom during the nine months of her pregnancy. When it seems that you must make an impossible decision, ask God to show you the way. He can and He will.
- IV. **IT IS NOT YOUR JOB TO FIGURE OUT WHAT GOD IS GOING TO DO.** Remember that God promises to do "*great and mighty things which thou knowest not.*" Jeremiah 33:3. Jochebed could not have imagined, let alone planned, for Pharaoh's daughter to be the one that would discover her son floating in the little boat in the river. But God made sure that it happened that way, and that Pharaoh's daughter's heart was tender towards the baby. Too often we are calculating when we should be obeying. We should neither try nor expect to be able to figure out how God is going to work. We are simply to trust and obey His Word.
- V. **THE REWARD FOR OBEDIENCE IS FAR GREATER THAN WE MIGHT HAVE GUESSED.** Who would have thought that in a place where women were required to murder their sons, that Jochebed would be paid to raise her own son?! Only God could bring to pass such a thing. And He did it in response to Jochebed's obedience. Obedience to God is the most powerful course of action that a believer can take, because it carries with it the full weight of God's authority.

The Birth of Moses

Exodus 1:1-2:10

[0210]

God Uses One Woman's Faith to Provide Israel's Deliverer

I. EXODUS 1:1-7 The Descendants of Jacob

1-5 The sons of Jacob that he brought into Egypt are listed

6 Joseph and his generation all die

7 The descendants of Israel multiply and thrive in Egypt

II. EXODUS 1:8-22 The Law of Pharaoh

8-14 The new Pharaoh makes the Israelites work as slaves

15-21 The midwives disobey Pharaoh's instructions

25 Pharaoh makes a law to throw Hebrew baby boys in the river

III. EXODUS 2:1-10 The Faith of Jochebed (Exodus 6:20)

1-4 A new Hebrew mother puts her baby boy in a basket in the river

5-6 The baby boy is discovered by Pharaoh's own daughter

7-9 Pharaoh's daughter pays the baby's mom to nurse him

10 Pharaoh's daughter names the boy Moses, and raises him in the palace

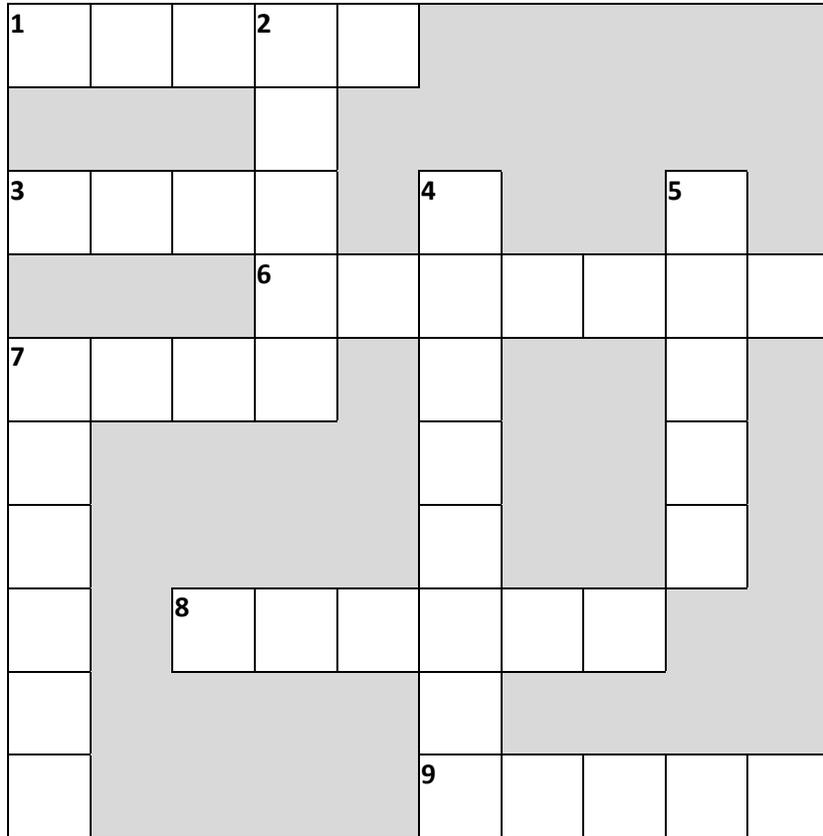
Proverbs 3:6 *In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.*

THE BIRTH OF MOSES

Exodus 1:1-2:10

[0210]

Complete the crossword puzzle below using words from the Scripture passage and information from today's lesson.



ACROSS

- 1 The law said that Israelite baby boys must be thrown in the _____
- 3 Jochebed was the mother of a _____ boy
- 6 The king of Egypt was called _____
- 7 Jochebed made a basket into a small _____
- 8 The baby boy's _____ watched the boat
- 9 Pharaoh's daughter took the baby to _____ him in Pharaoh's palace

DOWN

- 2 The Israelites were slaves in _____
- 4 Pharaoh's _____ found the baby boy
- 5 She named the baby that she found in the river " _____ "
- 7 Jochebed wove a _____ and made it into a small boat

In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:6

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The answers to today's puzzle

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| A | | | | G | | | E | |
| S | | | | H | | | S | |
| K | | ⁸ S | I | S | T | E | R | |
| E | | | | E | | | | |
| T | | | | ⁹ R | A | I | S | E |

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