

12.01b Moses - Baby (Exodus 2:1–10; Acts 7:17–22; Hebrews 11:23; Numbers 26:59)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- I heartily recommend Herein Is Love Commentary Series; *Exodus, A Commentary for Children*, written by Nancy Ganz and published by Shepherd Press in 2002.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *bulrushes*: reeds that grow in shallow water
- *a nurse*: a woman who has given birth to a baby and has milk to nurse a baby

Scripture

(NASB) Exodus 2:1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and set *it* among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her maidens walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it *to her*. 6 When she opened *it*, she saw the child, and behold, *the* boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.” 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women that she may nurse the child for you?” 8 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go *ahead*.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. 9 Then Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child away and nurse him for me and I will give *you* your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him. 10 The child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. And she named him Moses, and said, “Because I drew him out of the water.”

(ESV) Acts 7:17 “But as the time of the promise drew near, which God had granted to Abraham, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt 18 until there arose over Egypt another king who did not know Joseph. 19 He dealt shrewdly with our race and forced our fathers to expose their infants, so that they would not be kept alive. 20 At this time Moses was born; and he was beautiful in God’s sight. And he was brought up for three months in his father’s house, 21 and when he was exposed, Pharaoh’s daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son. 22 And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.

(ESV) Hebrew 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

(ESV) Numbers 26:59 The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed the daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt. And she bore to Amram Aaron and Moses and Miriam their sister

Introduction/Review:

About four hundred years after Jacob/Israel and his family had moved to Egypt from Canaan, the Israelites were no longer favored by the pharaoh. Rather, they were in hard bondage, working under Egyptian taskmasters who treated (rather, mistreated) them like slaves. Nevertheless, “the sons of Israel were fruitful, increased greatly, multiplied, and became exceedingly mighty, so that the land was filled with them”

(Exodus 1:7).

In a last-ditch effort to stop Israelite population growth, Pharaoh commanded that all the Israelite newborn baby boys be drowned in the Nile River.

Story:

Hidden

Now, one loving couple named Amram and Jochebed had one boy and one girl who had been born before Pharaoh's wicked decree. However, during the time of the murderous command from Pharaoh, they had another baby, a beautiful baby boy. The Bible states, "He was beautiful in God's sight" (Acts 7:20). A Bible scholar, Matthew Henry, states that the parents "looked upon this [beauty] as an indication of some kind purpose of God concerning him, and a happy omen of something great" (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/exodus/2.html>).

No way was this family going to allow anyone to throw that beautiful baby into the Nile River! ✓Rather, every time that boy began to cry, Jochebed nursed him to keep him quiet. Every time someone knocked at the door, she did not answer. It didn't matter to this family that the pharaoh had ordered the drowning of their baby; they would do all they could to preserve his life. Hebrews 11:23 tells us this baby's parents "were not afraid of the king's edict."

This hiding continued three months, but it was becoming more and more difficult to conceal the child. What could be done?

Planted

✓Perhaps the entire family made plans, but Jochebed carried them out. She got (or perhaps made) a basket constructed from bulrushes that grew near the river's edge. She waterproofed the basket by painting and sealing it with a tar-like substance. Then she placed her baby boy in that waterproof basket and set it in the Nile River in the reeds. Miriam, the baby's older sister, kept her distance but watched that basket to see what would happen to the baby.

I can't prove it, but ✓I think Jochebed intended, with lots of prayer, that her beautiful baby boy would be found by the person who found him. This is how it happened.

Discovered

Of all the people in Egypt, Pharaoh's daughter and her maids came walking beside the Nile River on their way to bathe. What did she see floating among the bulrushes? The little basket-boat. The princess sent her maid to get the basket. When she opened it, she saw our beautiful baby boy, and he was crying.

"Oh, look at this precious child. It must be one of the Hebrews' children." Pharaoh's daughter said, pitying the poor crying child.

This was Miriam's cue. She approached Pharaoh's daughter and asked, "Shall I go and find a nurse for you from the Hebrew women so that she may nurse the child for you?"

The princess answered, "Yes. Go ahead."

Reared

Of whom would Miriam be thinking? Of course, the baby's mother. So she went and called her mother (and the baby boy's mother) and brought her to the Egyptian princess.

Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will pay you."

So Jochebed took her own child, nursed him, and got paid for doing so! What an ingenious plan. What a gracious God to work out all these minute details.

✓We assume that as the baby grew, Jochebed and Amran were able to train their son, teaching him about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, but, more importantly, about Jehovah God.

Trained

Eventually, Jochebed brought the child to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her own son. What was this child's name? Pharaoh's daughter named him Moses, which means "drawn out of the water." Why would she name him that? [Because she brought Moses out of the river.]

Most of this story is taken from the book of Exodus, but the New-Testament book of Acts gives us a bit more detail about Moses' growing-up years. It states, "And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians."* This is impressive, for it means Moses was educated in the very best schools. In addition, the Bible states, "He was mighty in his words and deeds." God gave Moses not only great schooling but also great abilities. Will his mother's expectations for this son be fulfilled?

*"Philo the Jew says that he learned arithmetic, geometry, and every branch of music, the hieroglyphics, the Assyrian language, and the Chaldean knowledge of the heavens, and the mathematics; yet was not a magician, or skilled in unlawful arts. . . . [H]e was a man of great abilities, and fit for business both in the cabinet and in the field. Josephus relates an expedition of his against the Ethiopians, whilst he was in Pharaoh's court, in which he obtained victory over them" (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/acts-7-22.html>).

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:
Moses was rescued from widespread infanticide. Jesus Christ, too, was saved from Herod's command to kill the boy babies.
God told Joseph to take the baby Jesus and Mary to Egypt, the same country in which Moses had lived.
- Trust God, but make plans.

Activities:

- Play dough: baby (make by forming a barrel and adding a sphere for the head); bulrushes; basket
- Snack: Baby Moses in a Jell-O® Cup. Make blue Jell-O® and put it in individual clear plastic cups. Put a dollop of whipped topping on top. Push the whipped cream down in the center with a spoon, making a basket. Put a green grape in the indentation to represent the head of the baby and a banana slice or two for the body. Thin pretzel sticks around half of the edge of the Jell-O® can be the bulrushes (<https://www.daniellesplace.com>).
- Present a skit, "Moses in the Nile," found at <https://www.kidssundayschool.com/gradeschool/skits/moses-in-the-nile>.
- Sing stanza 1 of "Moses Gets out of Egypt," found below or on the Songs page at teachingthebibleto kids.org, where an audio and a visual are available.
- Play "Hiding in the Grass." Blindfold a child. Have the other children scatter around the room and find a place to stand. Once they pick a spot, they have to stay there. The blindfolded child asks, "Where's Moses?" All the other children answer, "Hiding in the grass." As the blindfolded child continues to ask, "Where's Moses?" [s]he follows the voices of the children responding until he tags one of them. The tagged child is next to become it.
- Play with baby dolls, blankets, and baskets (<https://www.daniellesplace.com>).
- Play a sink or float game. Give children small objects and have them guess whether they will sink or

float. Then have the children take turns dropping their objects into a see-through bowl to see if they were correct in their guess (<https://www.daniellesplace.com>).

- Review questions: (Game: Cut thirteen long, narrow pointed strips of green paper to resemble bulrushes. A correct answer to a question allows a student to place a bulrush in a jar or vase.)
 1. Name either the husband or wife in this lesson. [Amram; Jochebed.]
 2. How many children did Amram and Jochebed already have? [Two: a boy and a girl.]
 3. What did these parents think about the appearance of their new baby boy? [He was beautiful.]
 4. What did the parents do with the newborn boy because they did not fear the king's commandment? [Hid the boy three months.]
 5. How did Jochebed prepare the baby's new "water" bed? [Got a basket; waterproofed it with tar.]
 6. Who kept an eye on the baby in the basket? [His sister, Miriam.]
 7. Who arrived at the Nile River? [Pharaoh's daughter and her maids.]
 8. What happened when Pharaoh's daughter saw the baby? [He cried; she pitied him.]
 9. What did the sister suggest? [That she get someone to nurse the baby.]
 10. Who was the baby's nurse? [His mother, Jochebed.]
 11. What did Pharaoh's daughter name the baby? [Moses.]
 12. Why did Pharaoh's daughter name the baby Moses? [Because the name means "taken from the water."]
 13. What kind of education did Moses have? [The best of Egypt.]

Memory Verse[s]: (ESV)

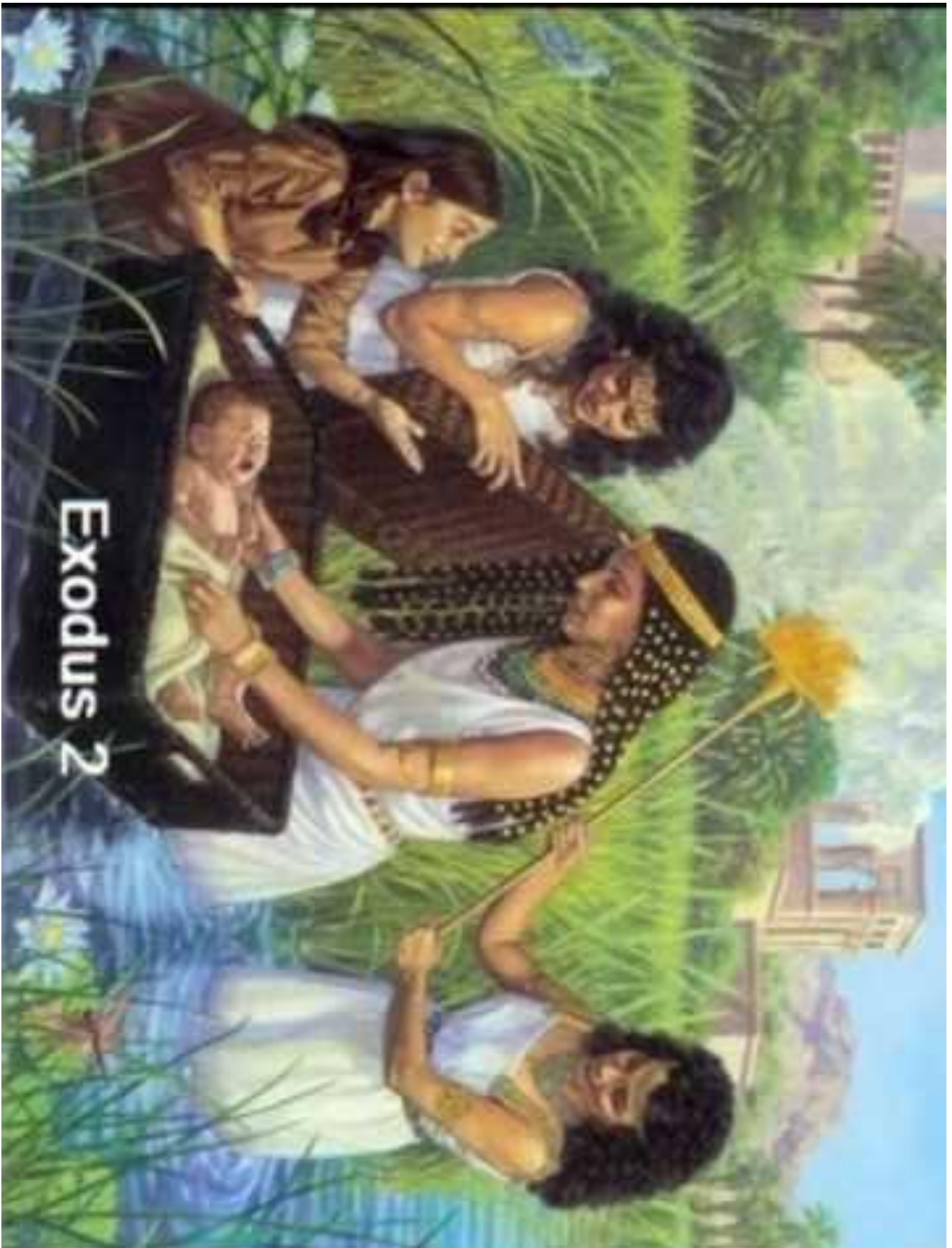
- Hebrew 11:23—By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents . . . and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

Handwork: [Handwork ideas abound for this lesson. Below are some sites with good ideas.]

- Weave a basket at <http://www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/mbasketweave.htm>
- Baby Moses Paper Craft at <http://www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/mpapermoses.htm>
- Miriam Helps crafts and other activity ideas at <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/Bible-Themes-Moses.html#bread>

bulrushes

to nurse



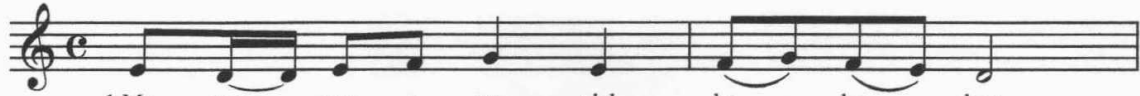
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xywi8JiXyNE>



St-takla.org

Moses Gets Out of Egypt

Marilyn Alexander



1. Mo - ses was a spe - cial ba - by boy,
 2. Af - ter E - gyp - tian learn - ing Mo - ses was quite bright.
 3. Once he - saw a burn - ing bush that did - n't burn.
 4. With God's plan the pha - roah was not too keen.

3



Saved in a bas - ket that was not a toy.
 Then he saw - a man mis - treat an Is - rael - ite.
 God said, "Back to E - gypt you must re - turn.
 Made the slave dri - vers be ex - tra mean.

5



Pha - roah's daugh - ter found him in the Riv - er Nile,
 Put the man to death but had to run for his life.
 You will lead My peo - ple on to Ca - naan Land.
 With ten plagues God made the proud pha - roah fear.

7



Let him live with mo - ther for a lit - tle while.
 Worked for Jeth - - ro who got him a wife.
 I'll show signs and won - ders with a migh - ty hand."
 "That's e - nough!" he cried. "Now, get out of here!"