

MOSES IS BORN

Exodus 2:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 145:18

“The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many small prizes (stickers, pencils, erasers, etc.) as the number of children in your class.

One deck of playing cards.

As many “ark” patterns (that you draw before class and copy onto card stock) as the number of children in your class, and scissors, glue, cotton balls and crayons.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

You’re Hot! You’re Cold!

Hide a few small prizes somewhere in your classroom. Pick a volunteer to try to find the prizes by following your hints of “you’re getting colder; you’re getting warmer.” When the student finds the prizes, have him pass it out to the class.

Explain that today you will be learning about a family that drew near to the Lord and trusted in Him. **God has a good plan for our lives!**

LESSON TIME!

It has been said that, up until the coming of Jesus Christ, there was none greater than Moses. He is one of the few people in the Bible whose life is followed from his birth until his death. God called Moses to be a prophet, advocate, intercessor, and leader. Most of God's early dealings with Israel involved Moses. Today, we will talk about the birth and first years to Moses.

At the time of Moses birth, the children of Israel were still living in Egypt, now as slaves to the Egyptians. Remember, the current Pharaoh (or king of Egypt) did not remember Joseph or the good he did for the nation of Egypt. The people cried out to God for deliverance, and the Lord heard their prayers. God is about to send deliverance through a simple man named Moses.

Remember, despite the harsh life of slavery, God blessed the Israelites, and they continued to multiply in number. This population growth troubled Pharaoh who worried that such a large people group could join his enemies in event of war and defeat Egypt. He now determined to kill all of the babies who were born to the Israelites. He ordered all the Hebrew midwives to kill every male child that was born. But the midwives feared God "and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive" (Exodus 1:17).

Finally, Pharaoh commanded that all the male babies born to Israelite families were to be thrown into the Nile River. It was during the time of this murderous decree that the future deliverer of Israel was born. Sometimes, God does His greatest work in the most impossible situations.

EXODUS 2:1-2

And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi.

So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months.

In Exodus 6:20, we are given more details concerning the parents of Moses. "And Amram took him Jochebed, his father's sister, in marriage; and she bore him Aaron and Moses; and the years of the life of Amram were a hundred and thirty and seven years." Note that Moses was from the tribe of Levite both by father and mother.

In verse two, we see that his mother hid him for three months because he was a beautiful child. We are told in Hebrews 11:23 that it was faith that caused her to hide Moses: "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child, and they were not afraid of the King's commandment."

Faith and fear are mutually exclusive. Their faith was evident in that they did not fear man (the Pharaoh), but rather, determined to obey God.

The Bible speaks very clearly that we need to respect and obey all those who are placed in authority over us. We need to respect our president, our governors, our congressmen, our police, and anyone else that God has called to a place of leadership in our communities. However, the Bible allows this exception: when we are asked to do something that is in direct violation to God's Word or His command, we are to obey God, rather than man. God had sent Moses to deliver His people. Moses' parents obviously did the right thing in hiding him.

EXODUS 2:3-4

But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank.

And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

After three months, she realized that she could hide him no longer. So she then made an ark of bulrushes, put the baby in it, and laid the ark in the reeds by the river's bank. Again, we see Amram and Jochebed's faith in placing Moses in the very spot where the babies were drowned. They trusted God to take care of and protect their precious baby. What seemed by sight to be a step that would yield a dim future for Moses, was actually a step into God's plan of protection, training, and preparation for the deliverer of His people. **God has a good plan for our lives!**

The “sister” of Moses mentioned in verse 4 was most likely Miriam who we will see mentioned later in the story of Moses and the children of Israel.

How we need to trust in God’s plan for our lives even when our circumstances look bleak. Proverbs 3:5 states, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct your paths.” We can be confident God has a good plan for our lives. **God has a good plan for our lives!**

EXODUS 2:5-9

Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river. And her maidens walked along the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it.

And when she had opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

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?"

And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother.

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.

Pharaoh's daughter went down to the river to bathe. It was no coincidence that she went down to that very spot, at that very time, to see a basket. We know it was God who put it into the heart of this Egyptian princess to go to the river at that time and place, and it was the Lord who moved her heart with compassion for the crying child.

It was the Lord who caused the princess to yield to the suggestion of Moses' sister, making the princess willing for the child's own mother to care for him. Pharaoh's daughter thought it convenient that Moses should have a Hebrew nurse. What a blessing for Jochebed and for her son! Who better could nurse and care for the child than his own mother?

Now, she could care for and enjoy her son freely, without fear. How wonderful to trust the Lord with everything and to know that He sees each of our situations and uses them for our good. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). **God has a good plan for our lives!**

All's Well That Ends Well

Have your class sit in a circle and pass out a playing card to each student. Have them look at their card and remember the suit and value. Then have them pass the cards around according to your instruction.

Tell your class to pass the cards three times to the right, then one time to the left; then four times to the right; then five times to the left; then seven times to the right; then three times to the left; then one time to the right; then seven times to the left; then one time to the right.

Each child should have the card he started with. Explain that as they passed their cards around they really had no idea where it would end up or whether they would get it back, just like Moses' mother. She sent her baby son in a basket on the Nile never knowing whether she would see him again, but God is so good that not only did she see him again, she got to take care of her own baby until he was weaned. **God has a good plan for our lives!**

EXODUS 2:10

And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

When the child had been weaned, the mother, who had been his nurse, brought him back to the Pharaoh's daughter, who then adopted him as her own son, and called him Moses, for she said "Because I drew him out of the water." As the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter, Moses received a thorough Egyptian training, and was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, as Stephen states in Acts 7:22.

Pharaoh had wanted to eliminate the Israelites; and yet, God compels him to give bread, lodging, and education to the man God had chosen to accomplish the very thing that Pharaoh was trying to prevent. Pharaoh's wisdom was turned to foolishness, and Satan's devices were defeated. The ways of the Lord are amazing! **God has a good plan for our lives!**

As we look at these ten verses, we can truly see that God had His fingerprints all over the lives of Moses and his parents, and most assuredly, He has His fingerprints all over our lives.

As we study the entire history of Israel, it is amazing how God has directed, blessed, loved, and taken care of His people. From Abraham to Isaac, to Jacob, to Joseph, and now Moses, God's hand is upon His people. God's hand is upon all those who call upon Him. **God has a good plan for our lives!**

Have you called upon the name of the Lord? You can have a relationship with Him today and see what He will do in your life.

Teachers: Use this as an opportunity to share the Gospel with your students.

The Ark in the Bulrushes

Draw a simple template of a baby basket. Make as many white cardstock copies of the “ark” pattern as the number of children in your class. Have your students color their sheets and draw a baby in the ark.

Cut out their arks and babies. Around the babies have the children glue cotton balls so it looks like the baby is lying in something soft. Glue the ark onto a sheet of white construction paper. Have the children decorate a river scene around the ark.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the nearness of the Lord, His protection, and providence.