

Miriam and Moses

BIBLE PASSAGE

Exodus 1:8–2:10

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE

I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born.

Jeremiah 1:5

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

“Congratulations! Say hello to your new son,” the nurse said as she placed the infant into the waiting arms of his teary-eyed, adoptive mother. It was love at first sight. Many adoptive parents have had the opportunity to experience the joy of holding their newborn babies. Though they did not physically birth the child, the adoptive parents’ love and gratitude equals that of birth parents. Christian adoptive parents recognize the providence of God in the adoption process, knowing this is the special child He has for them. One of the Bible’s most important men was an adopted child.

To give you a little backstory, fearful the Israelites might rebel, Egypt’s Pharaoh ordered two Hebrew midwives to kill any boys born to Hebrew mothers. Because these midwives feared God, they did not follow through.

One clever Hebrew woman named Jochebed placed her baby in a basket and placed it in the reeds by the bank the Nile River. Pharaoh’s daughter spotted the basket and sent one of her servants to get it. When she discovered the baby inside, she felt sorry for him.

Moses sister, Miriam, had followed the basket and saw the rescue. She suggested that a Hebrew woman be found to nurse him. So it was the baby’s biological mother who nurtured him until he was old enough to live as the adopted son of Pharaoh’s daughter. She named him Moses.

How does the story of baby Moses demonstrate the providence of God? _____

In what ways does the story show that God cares for all people? _____

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

I can appreciate my value as a person God loves.

Additional training for Bible Studies For Life: Kids is available at ministrygrid.com/web/biblestudiesforlife.

Need a large-group worship option? Find out more at lifeway.com/worshipforlife.

DATE OF USE _____

LIFE VERSE

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.

EPHESIANS 4:32

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

Notes

▶ A Place for Everything and Everything in Its Place

1. Form two teams. Give each team 39 index cards and tape.
2. Explain that teams have five minutes to write each book of the Old Testament on an index card and tape it under the sign for the correct division.
3. Explain that the numbers indicate the number of books in that division.
4. When time has expired, award one point for each book in the correct division. Explain any incorrect answers.

OPTIONAL: Allow kids to use Bible Skills App under Bible Studies For Life: Kids Family App found in the Apple® and Google Play™ stores.

- ▶ markers, stopwatch
- ▶ 78 index cards—Provide 39 cards for each team.
- ▶ tape—Provide 1 roll of tape for each team.
- ▶ copy paper—Write each division of the Old Testament and the number of books in the division on separate sheets of paper. Make two sets. Tape each set to opposite walls of the room.

Option: “Divisions of the Old Testament Posters” (CD)

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

▶ We’re a Band

1. Instruct each preteen to find an item in the room that can be used as a musical instrument to make a rhythmic pattern (suggestions for “instruments”: tabletop, chair seat, stomping a foot, tapping a water bottle with a pen, snapping fingers, rubbing a carpeted floor with a ruler or some other object). Encourage preteens to be creative, and allow them to use their voices as instruments.
2. Call on volunteers to play their instruments for the group. Encourage preteens to create a song by everyone playing their various instruments in a rhythmic pattern. While they are playing, instruct one preteen to stop. Ask the group if they can hear a difference in the song. Instruct the preteen to resume playing and call on a different preteen to stop. Ask again if the group can hear a difference. Repeat a few more times.
3. Explain that in the band, each person was important. When someone stopped playing, the song changed. Share that today’s Bible story will focus on how each person matters to God and that no one is unimportant.

- ▶ Place various objects around the room that could be used as musical instruments.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Notes

- ▶ Pack Items 1, 2, 4
- ▶ Teaching Picture 1
- ▶ Activity Pages
- ▶ DVD
- ▶ index cards, tape
- ▶ poster board, small sticky notes—Draw a large foot on the poster board. Write both positive and negative point values (30, -15, and so forth) on the back of several sticky notes and attach them to the poster board. Use more point values than there are questions on page 94.
- ▶ index cards—Write each word of Ephesians 4:32 on a separate index card.
Option: “Ephesians 4:32” (CD)

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GETTING TO THE POINT

▶ “Making Connections Title Banner” (Pack Item 1)

- Direct preteens’ attention to the title banner. Tell preteens that in this unit they will be learning more about developing a strong relationship with Christ and other Christians through reading God’s Word, serving in the church, and investing in the lives of others.
- Play the “Miriam and Moses: Introduction” video.

LOOK IN THE BOOK

▶ “How Did They Care?” (Pack Item 4)

- Guide preteens to form four teams. Instruct each team to turn to the Bible passage written on their card, read the passage, and answer the questions to determine how the person or people written on the card cared about others. When the teams are finished working invite each team to report. Use the following questions to guide the group discussion as needed:

The Midwives (Exodus 1:8-22)

- * What were the midwives instructed to do? Why?
- * What should have happened to Moses when he was born?
- * What did the midwives do instead?
- * How did the midwives care for others?

Moses’ Mother (Exodus 2:1-3)

- * What did Moses’ mother do when Moses was born? Why?
- * What did she do when she couldn’t hide Moses any longer?
- * What do you think Moses’ mother hoped would happen?
- * How did Moses’ mother care for others?

Moses’ Sister (Exodus 2:4,7-8)

- * Where was Moses’ sister when he was placed in the basket in the reeds?
- * What did Moses’ sister ask Pharaoh’s daughter? Do you think she had someone in mind all along?
- * How did Moses’ sister care for others?

Pharaoh’s Daughter (Exodus 2:5-6,9-10)

- * How did Pharaoh’s daughter feel when she found Moses? Why?
- * What did Pharaoh’s daughter instruct Moses’ mother to do? What else did she do for Moses’ mother?
- * How did Pharaoh’s daughter care for others?

LIVE IT OUT

Notes

CHOICE 1

▶ Activity Pages

▶ magazines, scissors, poster board, tape or glue, markers

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CHOICE 2

▶ Activity Pages

▶ copy paper, markers

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CHOICE 1 (GIRLS)

▶ What Am I Worth? “God’s Math” (Activity Page)

1. Distribute supplies. Instruct girls to cut out pictures and words that illustrate how girls tend to define self-worth, and instruct them to tape the items to the poster.
2. Once girls finish, invite one girl to choose a picture from the poster board.
3. Ask:
 - * Does everyone in the world agree on this?
 - * Is there a way to know that a person has *it* and has enough of *it*?
 - * Will _____ (fill in the blank with the name of the picture or word) last?
 - * Do you think this is a good way to measure self-worth?
4. Give the girl a marker and invite her to draw a large *X* over the picture or word.
5. Call for a new volunteer, repeating as time allows. If the words *Jesus* or *God* are on the poster, explain that this one should be chosen last. If the words *Jesus* or *God* do not appear on the sheet, ask if the girls can think of a better way to evaluate their self-worth.
6. Repeat the above exercise for Jesus showing how He passes each test. Explain that while not everyone in the world values Jesus, that does not mean that He should not be our perfect example of self-worth.
7. Direct girls to complete “God’s Math” on the Activity Page. Discuss.

CHOICE 2 (BOYS)

▶ Who Am I?, “God’s Math” (Activity Page)

1. Distribute supplies. Direct boys to write the phrase *I Am* at the top of the paper.
2. Guide boys to list descriptions of who they are. Give boys the option to illustrate.
3. Explain that you are now going to list several things and if anything listed can be found on their papers, they should draw an *X* over the picture or word. Walk around the room and glance at each page as you name each category. Make sure you mention a description of every item on each boy’s paper.
4. Say the following items aloud, giving boys time to place an *X* over each item:
 - * things you are good at
 - * friends and family
 - * things you have and own
 - * things you like or like to do

- * your home, school, and church
- 5. Explain that all that should remain uncrossed on their papers is what was written at the top, *I Am*. Remind boys that God gave Himself the name I AM in Exodus 3:14. Remind boys that all of them are important and valuable because God loved them so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross for them.
- 6. Instruct boys to complete "God's Math" on the Activity Page. Discuss.



Notes

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CHOICE 3 (BOYS AND GIRLS)

► Three Facts, "God's Math" (Activity Page)

- 1. Encourage preteens to think of facts about themselves others probably wouldn't know. Then guide each preteen to write three different facts on separate cards.
- 2. Shuffle the cards and read them one at a time. Allow preteens to guess who the fact is about. Continue until all the cards have been read.
- 3. Ask:
 - * Did you learn anything new about someone else today?
 - * Did anything surprise you?
 - * Did anyone learn that you have something in common with someone else?
- 4. Share that God has made each person different, and each person's differences should be celebrated and encouraged. Explain that God loves and values each preteen based on how He has made them.
- 5. Instruct preteens to complete "God's Math" on the Activity Page. Discuss.

CHOICE 3

► Activity Pages

- index cards—Provide 3 for each preteen.

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WRAP UP

- Share that God loves all people, and that He loved people so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for their sins. Let preteens know that you are available to talk about God's love for them once the session is over.
- Give each preteen a One Conversation™ placemat.
- Remind kids to give their One Conversation™ pages to their parents.
- Play the "Miriam and Moses: Wrap Up" video for the session.

WRAP UP

► DVD

- One Conversation™ Placemat—Print 1 copy for each preteen from www.biblestudiesforlife.com/extra.

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LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING:

I can appreciate my value as a person God loves.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE: Parents, help your preteen understand that Moses was a valuable part of God's plan. Each person matters to God. Ask some questions: Who helped Moses? How did God show He was with Moses? How can you know that God is with you?

KIDS



MIRIAM AND MOSES

EXODUS 1:8-2:10

BIBLE VERSE: Jeremiah 1:5

LIFE POINT: God loves all people and thinks they are important.

A new king was in power over Egypt. The new pharaoh feared that the Israelites, God's people, were growing in number too quickly. Pharaoh feared the Israelite population would become greater in number than the Egyptians, and the Israelites would rise up against them and leave Egypt.

So Pharaoh ordered that the Israelites work harder. The Egyptians began to make their lives miserable. They even forced the midwives (women trained to help other women have babies) to kill all newborn baby boys! However, because the midwives would not kill the babies, God allowed the Israelites to spread more rapidly throughout Egypt.

One baby boy born during this time was very beautiful. When the baby became too old to hide, his mother and his sister became afraid that Pharaoh's servants would try to kill him. So the mother used tar and pitch to waterproof a basket. She put the baby in the basket and set the basket within the reeds in the bank of the Nile River. The baby's sister was given the task of watching to make sure the baby was safe.

Later, Pharaoh's daughter was bathing in the river when she heard a baby cry. She asked her servant girls to find the baby and bring him to her. When Pharaoh's daughter saw the baby boy, she knew he was an Israelite and felt sorry for him. As the baby's sister saw this, she ran to the Pharaoh's daughter and offered to find a nurse to care for the baby. Of course, she got her mother. Pharaoh's daughter took him in and named him *Moses* because she "drew him out of the water."

LIVE IT OUT

Around the edge of a paper heart, print the names of family and friends. In the center of the heart print, "God Loves All People." Place the heart where it can remind you for this promise.

DAILY BIBLE READING

- Sunday: Exodus 20:7
- Monday: Psalm 25:5
- Tuesday: John 4:42
- Wednesday: Exodus 20:8
- Thursday: Psalm 37:31
- Friday: John 6:40
- Saturday: Exodus 20:12

TAKE IT FURTHER

Check out the "Miriam and Moses" section of the Bible Studies for Life: Kids Family App.

