

D29. Moses is Born

Exodus 1:1-14; 2:1-10

Learning Objectives

1. The children will retell the story of Moses' birth and early childhood.
2. The children will identify ways that God also protects them and provides for them each day.

Memory Verse: ***"He makes my way perfect." --Psalm 18:32 (NIRV)***

Getting Started

Choose One Activity

All Ages

Object Talk – God's Protection

Gather items that can be used for protection (gloves, eye goggles, helmet, knee pads, floatation tube from a lifeguard, etc.) and pictures of people whose job it is to protect (police, firemen, etc.). Have all the items on the table, and ask the children what they all have in common. All of these things and these people protect us! We are going to learn about how God protected little baby Moses in today's story.

"Sink or Float?" Activity

You will need to bring in a bunch of small toys and objects, some that float and some that don't. Pass out one object to each child. Talk with the children about what Moses's mother did to protect him by putting him in a basket that would float in the water. Give each child a turn testing out his/her object in a bowl of water. Before they test their object, ask the child if he/she thinks it will sink or float.

After each child has had a turn, tell the children that "today we learn about a mother who had a difficult decision to make. She was very smart and because she knew how to make something float, she was able to save her baby boy."

Grades K-2

"Baby Moses" Coloring Sheet

See: www.daniellesplace.com → Login → search "Moses" in the upper right hand corner → Click on the lesson "Moses – You can do great important things → Scroll to Early Arrivers activity #2

Print out one copy of the coloring sheet for each child. Have each child use crayons or colored pencils to color the picture of Baby Moses in the river as they enter the class. When they are finished coloring the picture, ask them if they can tell you who is in the picture. Probe the children to tell you as much as they can about the story, using the picture. Tell the children that "today we are learning about how God protected a very special baby boy named Moses." Continue with the story.

Grades 3-5"Things that Protect Us" Discussion

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → lessons → "The Life of Moses – Moses as a Baby", see the "As Kids Arrive" activity

On your easel or chart paper, make a chart with 2 columns:

Things that protect us	People that protect us
(Ex. Bicycle helmet, seat belts, gloves in the winter, etc.)	(Ex. Fireman, policeman, parents, God, etc.)

Give each child a sheet of paper with these two columns on it and have them brainstorm to try and come up with as many things for each category that they can think of. When they are finished, talk about it together and write their responses on the board for everyone to see. (You may also choose to do this activity all together. If possible bring in props that would help "jog their memories" and guide them to the answers you may be looking for. For example, a helmet, a picture of a policeman, etc.)

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

God will protect you.

Please Note: Due to the different biblical translations, different words or "titles" are used. For example, some translations will say "King of Egypt" while others will say "Pharaoh". Please help the children understand that in such cases, these are one and the same.

After Joseph was reunited with his brothers, his entire family came to Egypt to live. Those that came were Jacob's sons, (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher) plus their families. There were 70 people altogether. They lived in Egypt and their children had children, and much time passed, and this family from the country of Israel, called the "Israelites" had great numbers in Egypt.

In time, a new King came to power in Egypt. He didn't know anything about Joseph or God or the Israelites. He just saw a large group of people. "Look," he said. "The Israelites are far too many for us. We must deal with them carefully. If we don't, they will increase their numbers even more. Then if war breaks out, they'll join our enemies. They'll fight against us and leave the country." So the Egyptians made life hard for the people of Israel. They became slaves and were forced to build cities and to work harder and harder. But the more the Egyptians would punish the people of Israel, and the harder they made them work, the more the Israelite's numbers grew. Their family got bigger and bigger! And so the Egyptians became more and more afraid of the Israelites. So they made the Israelites work even harder.

Then the King of Egypt (or the Pharaoh) made a law that said that only the girl babies could live, and that any boy babies born would have to die. The King did not want the people of Israel to keep growing in number and in strength.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

There was a man from the family of Levi. He married a woman and she later gave birth to a baby boy. The mother saw how beautiful the baby was, and so she hid him for three months. But after that, she wasn't able to hide her baby any longer. So she got a basket that was made out of the stems of tall grass, or reeds. She coated it with tar so that it would float. Then she placed the baby boy in the basket. She put the basket in the tall grass that grew along the edge of the Nile River. The baby's older sister wanted to see what would happen to him, so she watched over him.

The daughter of the King of Egypt (who was called the Pharaoh) went down to the Nile River to take a bath. Her servant girls were walking beside her along the banks of the river. She saw the basket in the tall grass and she sent her maiden to go and get it. When the Pharaoh's daughter opened the basket, she saw the baby boy. He was crying and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then the baby's sister spoke to the Pharaoh's daughter. She asked, "Do you want me to go and get one of the Hebrew women? She could take care of the baby for you."

"Yes, please," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. The King's daughter asked the woman to: "Take this baby and nurse him for me. I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to King's daughter. She adopted the baby as her own son. She named him Moses because she had pulled him out of the water.

After a long time, the King of Egypt died. The people of Israel groaned because they were forced to work very hard. They cried for help. God heard their cries. He also remembered the agreement or promise He had made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did the Israelites end up being slaves in Egypt? (They kept growing in numbers and the King of Egypt was afraid that there were too many people and that they would go and fight against the people of Egypt. So the King made the Israelites slaves.)
2. Instead of throwing him in the Nile, what did Moses' mother do for him? (She tried to hide him for 3 months. Then she loved him so much, she gave him away so he could live.)
3. How did she give the baby away? (She put him in a basket and placed him in the reeds by the river bank.)
4. Where did the King's daughter find the baby Moses? (Along the banks of the river among the reeds.)
5. Do you think it was just chance that the King's daughter found the basket, or was it part of God's plan? (No, it was part of God's plan to protect Moses.)
6. Who did the Pharaoh's daughter get to take care of the baby? (Moses' real mother was able to nurse and take care of him.)
7. How does God protect you in your life? (Discuss together and make a list. Then be sure to make the connection to "thanking God" for all He does to protect us each day, how we do that, etc.)

Application to Real Life

In this story today, we saw how Moses was protected from great harm, and because he was just a little baby, he didn't even know it! Look up together in the Bible (or have the children find the following verse): Psalm 18:32. (*"God gives me strength for the battle. He makes my way perfect."*) Read this verse aloud, and write it down on the easel or white board.

Tell the children that you have a little trick to show them how God protects us and gives us strength when we need it. Ask for a volunteer and have him/her stand in front of the wall, and place the palms of their hands against the wall. Then ask the child: "Do you think that if I came behind you and pushed a little, you could keep me from pushing you flat against the wall?" Then give it a try. (Be sure not to push too hard - remember you are an adult.) Then ask the children what they think would happen if the rest of the class got behind you, and everyone pushed? Could you resist the force?" Unbelievably, the child will be able to, just as easily as before. Make sure the child is comfortable trying the experiment. (If not, choose another volunteer.) Have the children sit back down and talk with them.

Tell them, "God knows what we are going to be faced with in life, and He always provides what we need, even if we cannot see it. The strength to withstand all the people pushing at once is like God's unseen strength. True strength can only come from God. If we honor and obey Him, we do not have to worry, because He will always be there to protect us. Refer back to the verse in Psalm that you posted on the board: "God gives me strength for the battle. He makes my way perfect." (Psalm 18: 32). He will take care of you! God will protect you. (Message statement.)

Memory Work Fun

5 minutes

1. Name the two main parts of the Bible and tell what the difference is. (Old Testament – before Jesus, New Testament – Jesus & After Jesus)
2. Where is the book of Exodus located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together.
3. Review the fifth commandment: *You shall not kill.*
4. Recite the memory verse.
5. Lead the class in a short prayer thanking God for protecting Moses so long ago, and for also protecting us each day.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages

"Moses in the Water" Skit

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → skits → "Moses in the Nile"

Use the script on the above website for the "Moses in the Nile" skit. You will need 5 children. If you have more children, do the skit more times so that everyone has a chance. If you have less than 5 children, have children do more than 1 part (costumes work well to tell the difference!) or find some volunteers to give you a hand.

OR – use the "Moses skit" – Part 1 (see attached).

All Ages - Continued**“Hide Baby Moses” Game**

Play a game of hide baby Moses. You will need three cups turned upside down, and a small picture of a baby (or a little plastic baby, like those found for baby showers). Put Moses under one of the cups and move the cups around, making the children guess where Moses ends up. Have each child take their turn at hiding the baby and moving the cups.

Begin Moses Timeline

Since the story of Moses will go on for several lessons, use a large roll of paper or poster board to begin a timeline for Moses. Starting with this first lesson, have the children write the important events and draw a picture to go with the story. Add to this project each week and display it your class area.

Grades K-2**“Cactus Needles” Discussion**

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → preschool → object talks → “Cactus Needles”

You will need to bring in a small cactus. In this discussion activity, you will explain how a cactus needs the help of its sticky needles in order to protect the moisture inside, but we don’t need sticky needles because we have protection from God. God will protect us.

Talk with the children about the baby cactus and the fact that there are needles all over it. Ask the children if they have ever been stuck by a cactus needle. It doesn’t feel so good. It might even make you cry, and then a grown up would have to help take the needle out of your skin with a tweezers.

Ask the children why they think God created the cactus with such pointy, sticky needles anyway? Why isn’t the cactus smooth and soft like grass or other flowers? (Give the children time to answer. Discuss together.)

Tell the children that a cactus is a very special plant created by God. He gave that the plant the ability to grow in very hot and dry places where it doesn’t rain very often (the desert.) In order to live there, the cactus has to store any water to use until the next time it rains. But there are animals in the desert too, and they get very thirsty. If the cactus did not have pointy needles, the animals would open the cactus and drink the water, and then the cactus would die!

Tell the children that God also created us, but we were created in His own image. We don’t have any needles, but we don’t need them to protect us because **God will protect us**. We are His children. We can feel safe even though we don’t have needles, because **God will protect us**. He will keep us safe.

“Baby Moses in the Basket” Craft

See: <http://www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/mpapermoses.htm>

Use the attached template to construct a baby Moses in the basket. You will need cardstock or heavy construction paper for the base, a copy of the printed template, scissors and glue.



Grades 3-5**“An Important Job” (Discussion)**

Moses’ sister, Miriam had a very important job in today’s story. God used her to help keep baby Moses safe. She watched over Moses and when she had the chance she helped her baby brother find a safe place to live with the King’s daughter.

Ask the children, “Do you ever think that what you do doesn’t matter? Do you sometimes feel like you’re just a kid, and what you do isn’t very important?” Tell the children that this isn’t true and that they are very important and they do have an important job to do.

Look up together in the Bible: **1 Timothy 4:12** and read it aloud: “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live. Also set an example in how you love and in what you believe. Show the believers how to be pure.” (NIRV translation) Discuss this verse with the children. Remind them that they are important to God and can do important things. They can be a good example and show others how God wants us to live. Tell them that when they are loving and kind and obedient, they are doing very important things because they are being an example to others.

Make a list together on your easel or white board about what kind of things God would want the children to do that are important. If the children have trouble coming up with ideas, suggest the following:

1. Help care for younger brothers and sisters.
2. Being a good example in the way you talk and act so people can see that you follow Jesus’ example.
3. Taking care of your things.
4. Giving things to others who don’t have much.
5. Inviting your friends to church with you and/or telling them about Jesus.
6. Alerting a grown up if you see anything that looks unsafe, so that no one will get hurt.

Remind the children that they are important. Re-read 1 Timothy 4:12. Encourage the children to be a good example, because they are important.

Journal*Optional***Grades K-2**

God really looked out for Moses and protected him from some serious harm. Has God ever protected you or someone you care about? What happened? Write about it.

Grades 3-5

Read 1 Timothy 4:12 again. (Teachers could have this on a piece of paper so the children can glue it into their journals.) How will you be an example to others this week? Be specific. Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grownup the story about the **Burning Bush** (Exodus 2:11-4:17).
- Learn the memory verse:
"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
--Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Color the "**Burning Bush**" coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- We talk to God all of the time when we pray to Him, but has He ever spoke to you? Ask a grown up if God has ever spoken to them. Write down their story and bring it to class to share.

Other Resources

www.daniellesplace.com → Resource Room → Search "baby Moses"

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → Old Testament → Lesson 35 "Support Curriculum"

Moses – Part 1: In the Nile River

Characters: Mother, Miriam, Pharaoh's daughter, Daughter's servant, Narrator

Begin with Mother and Miriam holding the doll of Moses.

- Mother** Miriam, Pharaoh made a law for all the Israelites. All the baby boys who are born must be killed.
- Miriam** Even my little brother? What can we do?
- Mother** We must hide him, and I will need your help.
- Narrator** They hid the baby in the house for a few months. But he grew and began to make noise. Soon, they could not hide him any longer. They prayed for God to help. He gave Mother an idea...
- Mother** Miriam, we need to get Moses out of the house. I know the Pharaoh's daughter cannot have children. We will put him in a basket and send him down the river.
- Miriam** I will follow him down and hide in the reeds. I'll make sure the Pharaoh's daughter sees him and takes him.
- Narrator** So Miriam and her mother put the baby in the basket and floated it down the river. Soon it was spotted by a servant.
- Daughter's servant** Oh, my, what is that noise? *(She looks in the basket)* It's a baby. My princess, come and look!
- Pharaoh's daughter** It is a baby. I will keep him as my child. He will be my son and I will call him Moses.
- Narrator** Miriam was watching and came out of the reeds to talk to the princess.
- Miriam** Princess, do you need a nurse for the baby?
- Pharaoh's daughter** Yes, do you know an Israelite who can do this?
- Miriam** I will find her and bring her to you.
- Narrator** So Moses mother became the nurse. But she told her son he was really an Israelite, not an Egyptian. And Moses grew up.

Name: _____

The Burning Bush



"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
--Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

Take Home Page: D29. Moses is Born

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **God will protect us.** The children explored story of Moses' birth and early childhood. They also talked about way that God protects and provides for them each day.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"He makes my way perfect"

--Psalm 18:32 (NIRV)

Ask me...

1. What happened to Moses?
2. How did God protect Moses? Why do you think he did?
3. Do you believe that God will protect you too? Why or why not?

Live Your Faith...

Use whatever materials you have around the house to make a fort together (chair and blankets and sheets work well). When the fort is built, climb inside for a talk. Pretend your fort is a tent outside in the wilderness. What can a tent protect you from? Remind your child that just like God protected Moses in the Nile River as a tiny baby, He also wants to protect us. Pray together and ask God to protect your family as you go about your day and week.
