

When the Crocodiles Missed Dinner

Exodus 1; 2; Acts 7:23; Hebrews 11:24-27; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 241-251

Have you ever found a really good hiding place when playing hide-and-seek? A place that no one else would think of looking? That was the kind of place that Moses' mother was looking for.

Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, was worried. "What can we do about these Israelites?" he asked his advisors. "There are too many of them, and they are so strong. They might even try to join with our enemies if there is a war and fight against us."

It was finally agreed that Pharaoh should give an order. All Israelite baby boys should be killed.

Jochebed and Amram were frightened. They did not want their baby to die! So they decided to hide him.

For three months they managed to hide Baby Moses at home. But soon he began to make too much noise. Jochebed was afraid that the soldiers would find him. "We will put Moses in the river," said Jochebed. "We will put him in a basket covered with tar so it will float."

"I will watch nearby and make sure nothing happens to the basket," Miriam, Moses, big sister, may have said.

Jochebed carried her son to the river in his basket. She put the basket into the water where the reeds grew so the basket couldn't float away. Miriam watched the little basket to be sure her brother was safe inside. And Jochebed prayed that God would protect Moses.

When Pharaoh's daughter came to the river to bathe, she saw the basket. "What's that in the reeds?" she asked her servants. "Please, bring it to me."

Soon the basket was delivered to the princess. She lifted the lid and looked inside. And Baby Moses began to cry.

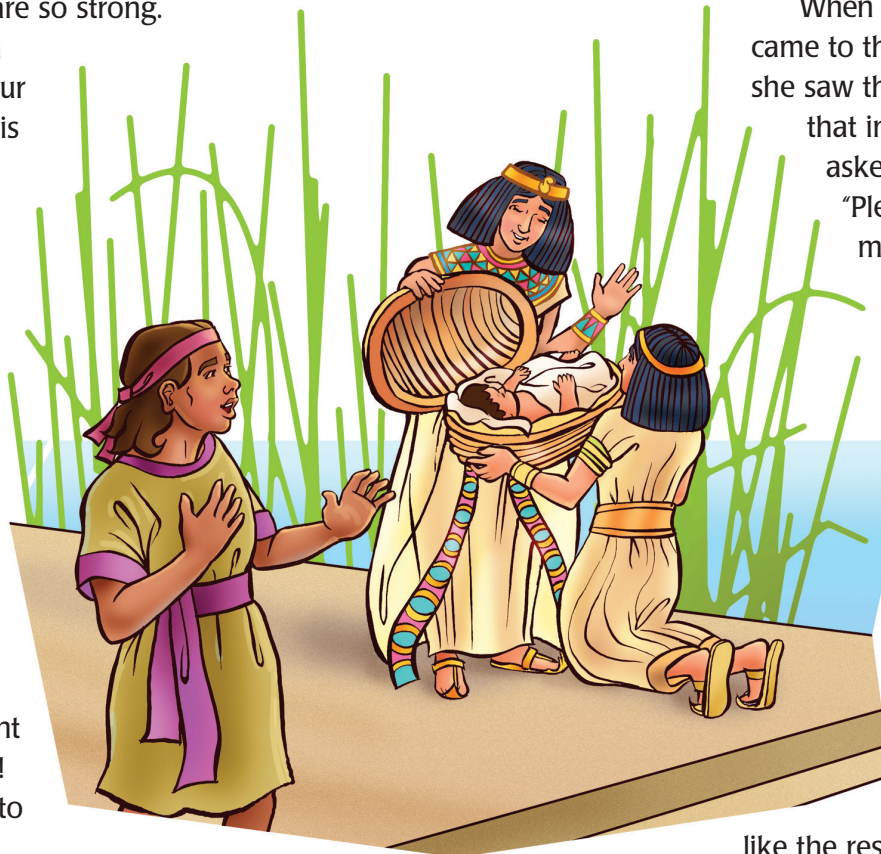
The princess smiled and said, "This is one of the Hebrew babies. I will not let him die

like the rest. I will keep him

and bring him up as my own son."

Miriam heard. She hurried to the princess and asked, "Would you like me to find a Hebrew woman to take care of him for you?"

"Yes, please. That would be good," said the princess.



The Message

We worship God when we thank Him for His protection.

Memory Verse

“Let everything
that has breath
praise the LORD”
(Psalm 150:6, NIV).

Miriam ran quickly and got her mother. When Jochebed arrived, the princess smiled. “Please, take this child and take care of him for me,” she said. “I will pay you well. And I will send for him when he is older.”

Jochebed was so happy! They could keep their baby! And they would even be paid for taking care of him!

“This is a miracle!” declared Amram. “God must have a plan for this baby.”

“Yes,” Jochebed replied. “We will teach him everything we know about the God of heaven. He must know all about God before he goes to live with the princess.”

The princess left Moses with Jochebed, and all the years they had Moses, Amram and Jochebed taught him about God and about His people. But the day came when Moses had to move to the palace. Moses learned many things there, but he never forgot God.

When Moses was 40 years old, he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite. He became so angry that he killed the Egyptian. The next day Moses saw two Israelites fighting. He stepped between them and told them to stop. They turned to him and asked, “Will you kill us too?”

Moses became frightened. He had done a terrible thing by killing the Egyptian. And Pharaoh might have him put to death because of it. So Moses ran away to the land of Midian. God was still with him and protected him. God had a special work for Moses to do.

Time in the wilderness of Midian would help prepare Moses for that work.

God watches over you too. Do you think He might have a plan for your life?





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, visit a family with a baby or small child and do something together.

THINK How do babies let you know they are hungry? Read Exodus 2:6. Do you think Moses might have been hungry?

PRAY Ask God to bless the babies you know.

M O N D A Y

READ During worship, read and discuss Psalm 32:6, 7 together. Who protects your family? Why? Ask someone to tell about a time God protected them.

DO Miriam hid and then watched Baby Moses. Play hide-and-seek with your family.

DRAW Moses' family were slaves. Draw Pharaoh's palace and a house like one Moses' family lived in. In which would you like to live?

PRAY Thank God for protecting your family.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Exodus 2:11-15 during family worship. Make up a poem about how you think Moses felt as he ran away. How many Bible stories about God protecting His people can your family think of?

DO Look on a map of Egypt and find the river Nile. Find out about papyrus reeds that grew in that river. (Hint: Research online or see an encyclopedia.) Did any crocodiles live there?

PRAY Ask God to protect your friends today.

S U N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Exodus 2:1-10 with your family. How did Moses' mother make the basket watertight?

DO Find three things that you think will float and three that might sink. Fill a sink with water and test your idea.

DRAW Draw a basket. Write your memory verse on it. Use it to help learn the memory verse and practice it every day.

PRAY Ask God to continue to protect your family today.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Acts 12:1-18 during family worship. Who prayed for Peter? How did God protect him?

DRAW Moses had a brother and sister. Draw a heart in the middle of a piece of paper. Write Jesus in the middle of it. Draw smaller hearts around the big one, one for each person in your family. Draw a line from Jesus' heart to theirs. Does Jesus care about them? Is your family larger or smaller than Moses' family?

MAKE Ask your mom for some kitchen foil. Fold it to make a basket boat. See if you can make a basket that will float.

PRAY Pray for family and friends who do not know Jesus.



THURSDAY

READ Read and discuss Exodus 2:1-10 during worship. How old was Moses when he was put in the basket? How many months are in a year? How old are you in months?

DO Make a list of things a 3-month-old baby needs.

DO If possible, help take care of a baby or a young child today. Ask God to help you to be a good example and to protect babies.

FRIDAY

READ During worship, reread the story of Moses in Exodus 2:1-10. Act it out with your family. Say your memory verse for your family, then have them say it with you.

Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. He wrote his own story in Exodus!

DO Sing "Whisper a Prayer" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 96). Then ask God to bless you on His special day, the Sabbath.



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PUZZLE

Directions: Write the answers to the following hints about names in this week's lesson in the boxes in the crossword puzzle.

Across:

- 1. Mother
- 2. He was protected by a princess
- 3. Older sister

Down:

- 1. River with reeds
- 2. Nationality of Moses' family
- 3. Father

