



K-1st Lesson

Review

- ? We're going to start today by thinking way back. Who remembers the new name God gave to Jacob after they wrestled each other? *Israel.*

Refer to the Genesis Timeline Poster if available. Then we talked about how Israel and his family all moved to Egypt and lived there for many years.

- ? Why did Joseph want them to move to Egypt? *So he could take care of them during the famine.*
- ? Do you remember what Israel did for his sons before he died? *Blessed them.*
- ? Yes. He gave each of them a blessing. But Judah got a special blessing that included a promise that the Savior would be born as part of his family. Who is the Savior? *Jesus.*

That's right. Jesus is the *Savior* because only he can *save* us from our sins.

After Israel blessed his sons, many years went by. Joseph and all his brothers grew old and died. But their children grew up and got married and had more children, and then they had more children. Remember how God promised to make Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob's family into a great nation? Well, that was happening. After many years there were thousands of people in the family, and they were called the Israelites after Jacob's new name, Israel.

The Israelites Multiply and Become Slaves

The Israelites lived happily in Egypt for many years until something changed their lives.

Exodus 1:8-9

- ? Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out what happened in the book of Exodus, the second book in the Bible. Who has the Bible?

Please bring it up. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Exodus 1:8-9.*

- ? What happened in Egypt? *They got a new king.*

That's right. But this king didn't know about Joseph and how he had helped so many people. This pharaoh was evil and didn't like the Israelites, so today whenever you hear me say "pharaoh," you can say "boo!" and give him a thumbs down. But whenever I say "God," you can do a thumbs up and say "yay!"

Let's try it. Pharaoh (*pause for "boo" and thumbs down*) did not know God (*pause for "yay" and thumbs up*). Pharaoh was afraid that the Israelites might take over his country, so he decided to do something really mean to them.

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Pharaoh made all the Israelites into slaves! They had to work hard making bricks and building cities and working in the fields. The Egyptians treated them harshly, and they couldn't escape!

God Protects Moses

Pharaoh was afraid that the Israelite baby boys would grow up to be soldiers and fight against him, so he made a new law that said the baby boys must be thrown into the river. This was terrible! Babies thrown into the river would die!

But even though Pharaoh came up with this evil plan, God was still in control. We're going to read how God protected a special baby boy. When I say "baby," you can do the motion like you're cradling a baby in your arms. Let's try that. *Have students practice cradling motion.*

During this time there was an Israelite family in Egypt that had a baby boy, but his mother would NOT let him be thrown into the river. Instead, she hid her baby.

- ? Does anyone know what babies do a lot that makes them hard to hide? *Cry.*

Yes! If an Egyptian heard him crying, the baby would be thrown into the river. When his mother knew she couldn't hide him anymore, she came up with a plan.

She made a small basket that would protect her baby and laid him inside. Then she set the basket in the water by the tall reeds that grew

at the edge of the river and told her daughter to keep watch over the basket as it floated there.

Exodus 2:5

Let's keep reading to see how God took care of this baby. Listen to this. *Read Exodus 2:5.*

- ? Who came to the river? *Pharaoh's daughter.*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Pharaoh's daughter, the princess of Egypt, came to the river with her maids. She saw the basket floating by the reeds and told her maid, "Go get that little basket over there."

Exodus 2:6

Listen to what happened next. *Read Exodus 2:6.*

- ? What did the baby do when she opened the basket? *He wept/cried.*

When the princess opened the basket, the baby started to cry, and she felt sorry for him.

- ? Who was keeping watch over the basket? *The baby's sister.*

Right. The baby's sister, Miriam, was watching. She told Pharaoh's daughter that she could find someone to take care of the baby for her. The princess agreed, so Miriam ran to get her mother—and her mother got to take the baby back home! She didn't need to hide him anymore. The princess even paid her to take care of the baby until he grew older! Isn't that amazing? God worked all this out perfectly!

Moses Becomes a Prince

- ? So, who is this baby we're talking about? Do you know his name? *Allow guesses.*

Exodus 2:10

Listen to this verse so you can tell me his name. *Read Exodus 2:10.*

- ? What name did the princess give the baby? *Moses.*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Yes. She named him Moses and adopted him as her son, and he grew up in the palace in Egypt.

Since Pharaoh's daughter was a princess, Moses became a prince. As a prince, he would have had to learn a lot of things like math, writing, and music. And he would also have to know how to fight like a soldier and learn to ride a horse and use a sword and a bow and arrow.

- ? How many of you think that sounds like fun? *Show of hands.*

Living as a prince may sound pretty neat, but Moses knew he was an Israelite, not an Egyptian. The Israelites were forced to work for the Egyptians and do whatever they said. They weren't free to go where they wanted or to do what they wanted for their own families.

- ? Moses lived as a prince in the palace for 40 years. But how do you think he felt when he saw how the Egyptians treated his people, the Israelites? *Allow discussion.*

Moses Flees to Midian

The Bible tells us how Moses felt! One day he wanted to find out what was happening to the Israelites. When he went out, he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite slave. Moses was very upset that his people were treated so badly.

Exodus 2:12

Listen to what he did. *Read Exodus 2:12.*

- ? What did Moses do to the Egyptian man? *He killed him and hid him in the sand!*

Moses hoped no one else would find out. But the next day he went out again to his people. This time he saw two Israelite men fighting. When he tried to break up the fight, one of the men asked if Moses was going to kill him like he had killed the Egyptian the day before!

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Uh oh! No one was supposed to know about that! When the slave said this, Moses was afraid. Then when Pharaoh found out, he wanted to kill Moses. So Moses ran for his life and fled to the land of Midian.

In Midian, Moses met a man named Reuel, who invited him to stay with his family. He agreed to stay with them and work as a shepherd. He married one of Reuel's daughters, named Zipporah, and they had a son named Gershom.

God protected Moses when he was a baby and when he was grown up. Moses' life suddenly changed a lot. He went from being a prince in a palace to being a shepherd in the wilderness! He probably thought he was never going back to Egypt or his people, the Israelites. But God had a plan for Moses. We'll see in our next lesson just what that plan was.

God protected MOSES.



1

The Israelites became slaves.



2

The princess adopted Moses.



3

Moses grew up as a prince.



4

Moses ran away to Midian.