**THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY**

# CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON

**DATE:** March 19, 2017

**SUBJECT: GOD’S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: God Called Moses (1 of 3)**

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 1:1-22; 2:1-10; 6:20; Acts 7:6-7, 17-21; Hebrews 11:23

**AIM:** To see that although Satan tries to harm God’s people, God will always keep, protect and bless those who fear Him.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** Joshua 24:14a (Now therefore fear Jehovah, and serve Him in sincerity and faithfulness;...); Psalms 33:18 (Behold, the eye of Jehovah is upon those who fear Him, Upon those who hope in His lovingkindness,); Psalm 56:11 (In God do I trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?); Psalm 111:10a (The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom;...); Psalms 112:1 (Hallelujah! Blessed is the man who fears Jehovah, Who delights greatly in His commandments.); Romans 8:31 (What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who *can* *be* against us?)

**SONG SUGGESTIONS:** 25 (I Believe God); 7 (I Am a Very Special Child); 155 (Blessing and Honor); 6715 *BSS Moses* (The Midwives Feared Jehovah); 2812 (God is Watching Over You); 2201 (Educated in Egyptian Ways); 68 (Know It In Your Head); 33 (When Your Fears Grow Mountain High); 1614 (COOPERATION); 9204 *BBS David* (Honor Honor); 2829 (Honor and Respect for Authority); 5212 (Oh Lord, Care for My Brother); 2502 (FAITHFULNESS chorus and verse 1); 4300 *BSS Matthew* (Learn How to Be Faithful Today)

**CRAFT IDEAS:** (1) Weave a basket. (2) Construct with paper a baby Moses in a basket with reeds in the background pasted on.

**BACKGROUND:** Joseph was a great man in the land of Egypt, second-in-command to Pharaoh. He saved many from severe famine and was respected and honored by all. Joseph’s father, Jacob, and his relatives eventually also moved to Egypt (Gen. 46).When Jacob died in Egypt, there was a great mourning for him and a big funeral procession to bury him in Canaan, the land God had promised to give him and his descendants (Gen. 49:29-33; 50:1-13). Afterwards, all of Jacob’s offspring and Joseph’s family remained in the land of Egypt for more than 400 years. Joseph died when he was 110 years old, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt until the time that God would visit His people and bring them again to the Promised Land (Gen. 50:22-26).

**CONTENT:** God’s chosen people, the Israelites, were now living in Egypt. After some time Joseph, all his brothers and all the people who knew Joseph were gone. As many years passed, the descendants of Israel (Jacob) - grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren increased and multiplied abundantly. They became very strong so that the land was filled with them.

At this point in time, there was a new king in Egypt who no longer knew about Joseph. The new king told his people that there were many more of the children of Israel than there were of the Egyptian people and that the children of Israel were stronger. He was afraid that if an enemy came to fight against the Egyptians, the children of Israel would join the enemy and fight against Egypt and leave Egypt. They made a plan to afflict the children of Israel with hard work. They made them build two treasure cities for Pharaoh, Pithom and Raamses. But it seemed the more they afflicted the Hebrews, the more they multiplied and grew! The Egyptians came to dread the children of Israel and made the Israelites’ lives very difficult with hard labor. The Egyptians thought that the children of Israel would become weaker through all kinds of hard, harsh labor.

Pharaoh wanted to stop the children of Israel from growing. He called two Hebrew women, Shiphrah and Puah, midwives whose job was to deliver the Hebrew babies. The evil Pharaoh commanded them that when they were helping the Hebrew women to deliver, if the baby was a boy, they must kill him, but if it was a girl, they must let her live. The Bible says, “But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them but let the male children live.” (Exo. 1:17) That means the midwives would not obey Pharaoh’s cruel command, because they believed in God and feared God more than they feared Pharaoh.

When Pharaoh found out what was happening, Pharaoh called the midwives again and said, “Why have you done this thing and let the male children live?” (Exo. 1:18) The midwives said, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous: before the midwife comes to them, they give birth.” (Exo. 1:19) So God was happy with Shiphrah and Puah, and because they feared and honored God, He rewarded them by establishing their households. As for the children of Israel, they continued to multiply and they became very strong. Since Pharaoh’s words did not stop Shiphrah and Puah, he commanded all his people that they must throw every son born to the Hebrews into the Nile River, but the daughters they must let live.

There was a Hebrew family living at that time that already had two children. The father’s name was Amram and the mother’s name was Jochebed, and they were both descendants of Levi (remember, Levi was one of Jacob’s sons). The parents had Miriam and Aaron before Pharaoh’s command took effect. They then had a third child, a son, who according to Pharaoh’s law must be thrown into the Nile River and left to die. But when the mother saw he was a fine child, she hid him for three months until he could no longer be hidden. Then she made a small basket out of papyrus and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She placed the basket with her baby inside it among the reeds on the bank of the river.

The baby’s older sister, Miriam, stood at the distance to observe what would happen. Pharaoh’s daughter came down with her maidens to wash herself at the River. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to fetch it. When she opened it and saw the baby boy crying, she had compassion on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.” (Exo. 2:6) Then Miriam came out of hiding and asked her if she wanted a Hebrew mother to nurse the baby for her. She did! So Miriam called her mother and presented her to Pharaoh’s daughter. Pharaoh’s daughter did not know that this was actually the baby’s own mother! Pharaoh’s daughter told the mother to nurse the child for her and she would pay her. So the child’s mother took him home and nursed him. And the child grew and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses, meaning *drawn out*, and said, “Because I drew him out of the water.” (Exo. 2:10)

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover for your group of children. Please do not feel obligated to cover all the suggested applications.*

* **We should be those who fear God.** When Shiphrah and Puah heard the king’s evil command, they feared God (Exo. 1:17). They knew that if they obeyed Pharaoh they would offend God very, very much. Therefore they defied the king’s command and did not kill the male babies. They feared God more than they feared Pharaoh, even when their lives were at stake. Thus, the Lord blessed them and established their households. Moses’ parents also feared God. By saving Moses, his parents preserved a leader for God who would later be used by God to lead His people out of bondage to the Promised Land. An attitude of respect and fear toward God controlled the conduct of the midwives and the parents of Moses. Likewise, our conduct should show an attitude of fear and respect—toward the Lord, toward our parents, teachers, and coaches. For example, when other children are fooling around in school, do we follow along or do we respect the teacher, the authority that God has put into place for us? When other children are using the Lord’s name in vain or are using other curse words, what comes out of our mouths? When we are in children’s meeting, do we respect and fear God or do we feel free to fool around and make jokes?
* **God is sovereign in all His arrangements for us.** God knew that, one day, He would need Moses to take care of His dear people. Therefore, Moses’s life was preserved. God even caused him to grow up in Pharaoh’s palace, where he received the highest and best education. In fact, the Lord arranged **all** of his circumstance for His purpose. We also are called by God, just like Moses was. Likewise, He will protect us and care for us and arrange all things for us to be useful for His purpose. In every situation we should not doubt the Lord. He knows everything and sees everything, even everything in the future. We should just pray (talk) to Him all the time and He will surely arrange the best for us.
* **God loves families.** Adam and Eve were the first family. Throughout the Bible we see that God wants families to love Him and serve Him together. In the Old Testament, we have very good examples of God loving and caring for the families of Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. In today’s story Moses’ mother cared for him very much and did what she could in order to spare his life. His parents hid him for three months. When he could not longer be hidden at home, big sister Miriam helped by watching over the basket to see what happened and by talking to Pharaoh’s daughter. Moses’ mother must have taken every opportunity to tell him about God and to help him fear God as the rest of his family did. We will see in later weeks that he clearly knew he was a Hebrew and not an Egyptian. We should be thankful for our parents and grandparents who bring us to the meetings and who take the time to read the Bible with us and tell us about the Lord. As siblings we should also encourage one another to love the Lord and fear Him. We should encourage one another to live in a way that would please Him.
* **Loving and Taking Care of our Siblings.** Miriam must have loved her baby brother very much and watched over him when he was placed in the river. She was very courageous, bold, clever, quick-thinking, ingenious to offer to find someone to nurse the baby. Miriam was instrumental in taking care of her brother and bringing him back to his own family in his early years. Because she loved her baby brother Moses, she was protective of him. Being the older sister to Aaron and Moses, she probably obeyed and helped her mother take care of them often. In the same way, we should love, care and look out for our younger and older siblings, friends, cousins, and classmates in all situations. We should avoid fighting and arguing, but rather take care of one another.

Adapted from the Church in New York City’s Children’s Meeting lessons: 4/10/88: 2/1/98; 2/8/98; 4/02/00; 3/26/06