

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**  
**Primary Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 12**  
**Birth of Moses (Exodus 2:1-10)**

**I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher**

- A. The Lord is always present with us and watching over us.
- B. If we trust in the Lord and obey His commandments, His power will always protect us.
- C. The Lord turns into good all the evils which the hells intend. (AC 6663) He makes sure that nothing happens that cannot in some way result in something good.
- D. The Lord protected Moses and prepared him for the great work of leading the children of Israel out of Egypt.
- E. Moses represents the Lord as to His Divine laws, especially the Ten Commandments.

**II. Story Circle**

A. Introduction

1. Do you remember why the children of Israel left Canaan and moved to Egypt? There was a famine, and they had no food. They came to Egypt to buy food, and they were surprised to find their brother, Joseph, was the next most important person in Egypt after Pharaoh. Joseph forgave them for selling him into slavery, and he invited them to move to Egypt so he could take care of them during the famine. Jacob brought his whole family of seventy people and all their possessions and livestock. Pharaoh gave them good land to live on and free food. The children of Israel were very happy in Egypt.
2. Did the children of Israel leave Egypt after the famine was over? (No; they stayed for a long time afterward.)
3. Time passed, and Jacob died. When Joseph was dying, he told his family that someday they would go back to Canaan with the Lord's help. Then Joseph died, too.
4. Many years later there was a new pharaoh who didn't like the Hebrew people. (Hebrew is another name for the children of Israel). The new Pharaoh didn't know Joseph and all the wonderful things he had done for Egypt. All he knew was that the children of Israel were a very large group of people, and he was worried that they might try to fight the Egyptians and rule Egypt themselves. So Pharaoh made the Hebrews work as slaves. They worked very hard making bricks for the Egyptians and working on many wonderful buildings. But the Lord was with them, and they were happy and well.

5. Then Pharaoh gave a cruel order. He said that every baby boy born to the Hebrews must be killed! He knew that this way there would not be so many Hebrews, and he thought this would keep Egypt safe from the Hebrews.
6. But there was one baby boy who was not killed. Do you know who this was? (Moses) Now let's read the story of Moses from the Word of the Lord.

B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read Exodus 2:1-10

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. How long did Moses' mother hide him? (3 months)
2. What did Moses' mother get ready for him to keep him safe? (An ark of bulrushes— like a basket)
3. What did she do to the ark so it would float? (Put asphalt and pitch on the outside so that water couldn't leak in)
4. Where did she put the ark that held her baby boy? (In the river, amongst the reeds by the water's edge)
5. Who waited nearby to see what would happen to Moses? (His sister)
6. Who came to the river and found Moses? (Pharaoh's daughter)
7. How did Pharaoh's daughter feel when she heard the baby cry? (She felt compassion. She wanted to help the baby.)
8. So Pharaoh's daughter decided to adopt the baby. Who was the nurse for the baby? (His own mother)
9. Why did Pharaoh's daughter name him Moses? (Because she drew him out of the water; that's what "Moses" means.)

D. Further Ideas

1. Who saved the life of baby Moses? (Pharaoh's daughter) But the Lord brought Pharaoh's daughter to the river at just the right time. It was really the Lord who saved Moses.
2. It was very wicked of Pharaoh to command that all Hebrew baby boys be killed. But the Lord was able to bring something good from this evil thing. He caused Moses to be raised in the palace by Pharaoh's daughter, and to be well educated. In this way, the Lord prepared Moses to lead the children of Israel back to Canaan. But we'll hear more about that next time!
3. Can you think of some examples of how the Lord has made good things happen even when it looked like everything was going wrong? (Teacher: You could give an example or two to get things started.)

### **III. Enrichment Activities**

#### **A. Music**

1. "Moses in the Bulrushes," LORI'S SONGS FROM THE WORD II.
2. "Heav'nly Father, Thou art near," Hymnal #158
3. "Savior like a shepherd lead us," Hymnal #154

#### **B. Activities**

1. Sing "Moses in the Bulrushes" with hand movements for the chorus (see attached).
2. A crossword puzzle to take home (attached).

#### **C. Project: THE ARK IN THE REEDS**

1. Make a picture of the ark in the river and Pharaoh's daughter. Make slits in the ark and in Pharaoh's daughter's arms. Make baby Moses so that he can be in the ark or be held by Pharaoh's daughter.
2. Or: Make an ark for baby Moses from half a walnut shell or part of an egg carton blackened with marker or paint. For a construction paper ark, cut a rectangle of black paper and cut on dotted lines (see attached instructions). Then make a baby Moses of playdough, cotton ball, or stiff paper. (If time permits, you may want to make a diorama of the river with reeds along its edges to go with the ark [see attached instructions].)

### **IV. Teaching Aids**

- A. Pictures of Moses as a baby
- B. A basket and a baby doll (optional).

### **V. Further Reading for the Teacher**

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. II, "The Birth of Moses" (Ex. 1,2:1-10). Phase III Lesson 12

## MOSES IN THE BULRUSHES SONG

(Some possible hand movements)

CHORUS:

Moses in the bulrushes  
*(Hand above eyes - looking)*

Sh! The baby hushes  
*(Finger to lips - sh!)*

In a basket made of reeds  
*(Cup left hand and point to its center with right pointer finger)*

Keeps him warm and dry.  
*(Hug yourself)*

## PROJECT: THE ARK IN THE REEDS

**Materials:** Construction paper (blue, black, white, and green— 2 shades, if possible)  
Glue or tape  
Scissors  
Colored pencils or felt tip markers

### Before Class

1. Cut out one black ark per child and snip on dotted lines. (You could crease along fold lines ahead of time, if you like.)
2. Cut one blue river strip per child, 6" X 3".
3. Cut one green river bank per child, 6" X 6".
4. Cut 2 green reeds strips per child, 6" X 2 ½" each. Fold along fold lines.
5. Trace baby Moses shape on white paper, one per child.

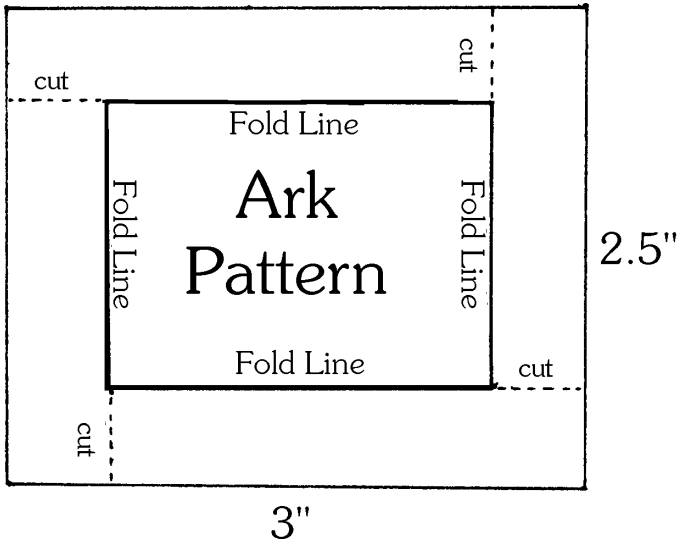
### In Class

1. Children snip the green reeds pieces from edge to fold to create a plant-like look (Explain that the ½" fold strip is to be glued down later & shouldn't be cut.)
2. Fold up ark flaps and tape or glue in place.
3. Cut out baby Moses. Put on a face, if desired.

### Method of Assembly

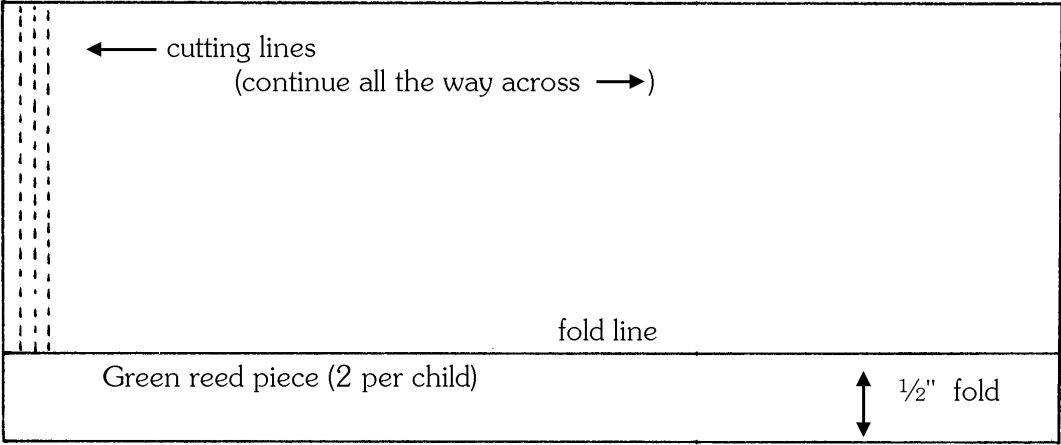
1. Lay 6" X 6" green river bank in front of you.
2. Glue 6" X 3" blue river strip down the center of riverbank.
3. (Optional: Glue ark into center of river; glue Moses into ark.)
4. Glue the ½" fold of the reeds strips with cut edge butted up against the edges of the blue river piece, reeds folded up into air to hide baby Moses.

TEMPLATES FOR ARK IN THE REEDS PROJECTS

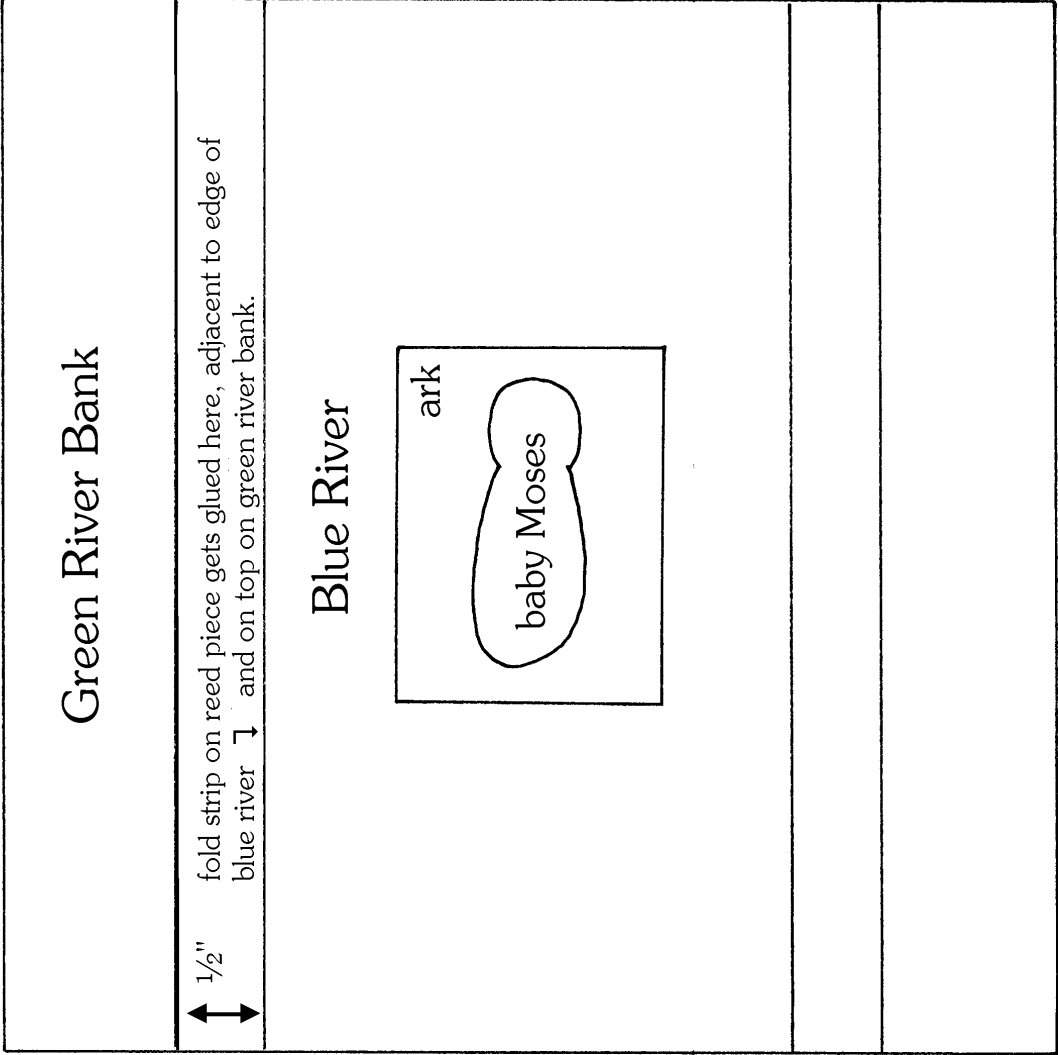


baby Moses

Green Reed Piece (2 per child)



Assembly:



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

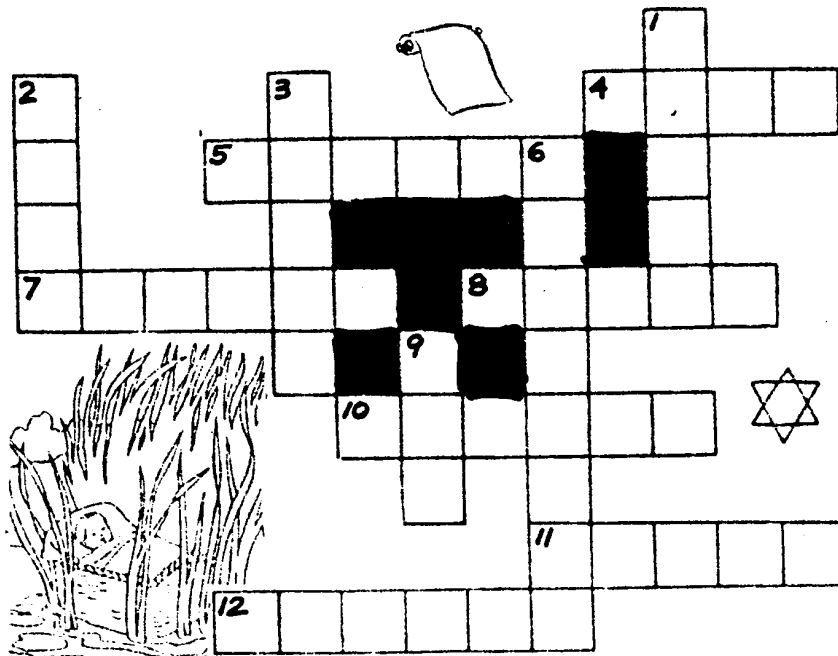
Your project is to do a crossword puzzle. Each word that you fill in comes from the first part of the book in the Word that we call "Exodus." The name Exodus as given to it because the word is like "exit," which means going out. And this second book of the Word tells about the way the children of Israel went out of Egypt.

They had been in that land for generations. This means that people lived there and had children and then died there, and then their children had children, and so forth.

In verse 8 of chapter one we are told that there arose a king over Egypt who did not know Joseph. This means that he had no recollection or memory of who Joseph was, and so he did not look upon the children of Israel as part of a wonderful story of a young man who stored up grain and saved Egypt from famine and then invited his family to come live in Egypt.

When this people came down into Egypt, there were only seventy of them. Each one of Joseph's brothers had a wife and family. The families taken together numbered seventy persons. And what were the names of the eleven brothers? They are listed at the beginning of this chapter. You may be interested to know that long before the book was called "Exodus" it was called by a Hebrew phrase meaning "Now these are the names."

### RESCUE BY A PRINCESS



The ruler of (11 across) had decided that all (7 across) (9 down) babies were to (5 across). One family, however, decided to disobey the order. Instead they made a small (4 across) and hid the child in it on the (3 down) bank. Pharaoh's (6 down) came to (2 down) in the river and discovered the child and she decided to care for it. The child's (12 across) meanwhile had been watching and volunteered to get a (6 across). Of course she got her (10 across). Eventually the child was big enough to live with Pharaoh's family. He was given the name (1 down).  
EXODUS 2:1-10