



The Birth of Moses

Level A

Ages 3-6

Exodus 1:7-22, 2:1-10 - selections

Series Theme: The Lord leads and provides for us, and we can choose to follow Him.

Lesson Focus: The Lord has a special job for me to do, and He wants me to be happy forever.

Reading Summary: In setting the scene for today’s story, children should know that Egypt had a new king who did not know Joseph. Fearing that the children of Israel were becoming too powerful, the king ordered all baby boys to be killed. When a new Hebrew baby boy was born, his mother hid him for three months. When she could no longer hide him, she built an ark of bulrushes, covered it in pitch and hid it in some reeds by the bank of a river, leaving his sister to watch from a distance. Pharaoh’s daughter came to the river to bathe, and when she saw the ark, she asked her maid to get it. She had compassion on the crying infant. His sister offered to fetch a nurse for the baby. When the child’s mother arrived, Pharaoh’s daughter asked her to take the child away and nurse him. When the child was older, he was brought to Pharaoh’s daughter and became her son. Pharaoh’s daughter named the boy Moses, which means “drawn out”, because she drew him out of the water.

Lesson 1		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Welcome Warm-up Activity (2-3 minutes)	Game	Search for “Baby Moses” directions p. 2	baby doll wrapped in a blanket
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word and Talk About It	see <i>Reading Summary</i> above <i>Moses Is Born Readings</i> p. 5 discussion guide p. 2	
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Act-It-Out children recreate the story of how baby Moses was hidden and found by Pharaoh’s daughter	Baby Moses Is Found directions p. 3 <i>Baby Moses Is Found Script</i> p. 7	open space for acting, blue sheet for Nile River, baby doll in basket, chairs to create a “house” for Moses’ family <i>optional:</i> plants to be reeds along the river, green sheets or towels for the river bank, costumes
	Make create a diorama of baby Moses in the basket at the water’s edge with his sister watching from a distance	Baby Moses Diorama directions pp. 3-4 <i>Baby Moses Diorama Pictures</i> p. 8	white or blue paper plates, coffee filters, blue and green crayons, scissors, tape, glue
	Coloring Picture	Finding Moses p. 9	crayons, markers or colored pencils
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 minutes)	Memory Verse introduce the memory verse for the week	Memory Verse <i>Parent Notes</i> p. 10	

1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

Search for “Baby Moses”

Supplies needed: a doll wrapped in a blanket, hidden in the room

Start by welcoming everyone. Explain that there is a problem. “Baby Moses” is missing. Describe what he looks like and encourage the children to help you look for him. Listen to see if you can hear him crying. Perhaps he is asleep! Where might “Baby Moses” be hidden? As the children search, give clues about where to look by telling them if they are “hot” (very close), “warm” (closer) or “cold” (further away).

When Baby Moses has been found, sit everyone in a circle and thank the children for their help. Tell them that today they will learn about a tiny baby who was hidden by his mother to keep him safe. To begin with, when he was tiny, she hid him in her house. When he got bigger, she had to think of another plan. Let’s find out what she did.

2. Focus on the Word

Read: Selections from Exodus 1:7-22; 2:1-10 on p. 5. See teaching picture on p. 6.

Have you ever seen a beautiful new baby? What are new babies like? Are new babies quiet or noisy? What kinds of things can babies do?

Our story today is about a tiny baby who was born at a time of great danger. Have you ever been in danger? What happened? What was it like?

You will see that the Lord was protecting the baby in our story—just as He protects each one of us. He knew that the little baby would grow up into a big man, and that he would have an important job to do.

The tiny baby was one of the children of Israel. Joseph, a member of his family, had saved many people from a famine in Egypt long ago and so the ruler had invited his family to live in Egypt. So instead of going back to their own land, the children of Israel stayed in Egypt.

Many years later, a new ruler became king. He had forgotten what Joseph did, and he was worried that the children of Israel were becoming too powerful. What did he decide to do? To kill all the boy babies who could grow up to become warriors.

How did the Lord protect the baby? He saved his life and then his mother hid him at home until he was three months old. When he was too big and noisy to hide she made an ark, put the baby inside it and hid the ark in the reeds at the edge of the river.

But the mother did not leave her baby all alone—just as your parents do not leave you alone. Who was watching him? His older sister. She was “babysitting” by watching close by.

Who came to the river and saw the ark? Pharaoh’s daughter and her maidens.

When Moses’ sister offered to find someone to help the crying baby, who did she go and get? The baby’s mother! How wonderful. Now the mother could take care of her baby at home. She did not have to hide him any more. He could learn to crawl, and walk, and talk.

When the baby was old enough to leave his mother, she took him to Pharaoh’s house. What did Pharaoh’s daughter name the baby? Moses—because “Moses” means to be taken or “drawn” out of the water. Moses represents the Lord’s Word—just as the water he was taken from corresponds to the Lord’s truth.

The Lord protected baby Moses so he could grow up to do an important job, and He is protecting and leading you to a special job in His kingdom as well! Most of all, the Lord is leading you to heaven, where He can bless you with happiness forever.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice

Baby Moses Is Found

Reenact the story of Moses' mother hiding him in the water and Pharaoh's daughter finding him. The teacher reads the story using the script on p. 7 and directs children throughout. Adjust parts according to your group's size and the ages of the children. For a very young group, the teacher could be "Pharaoh's Daughter", or "Miriam".



1. In our story today the Lord protected baby Moses so that he could grow up to be an important leader. Who were some of the people that made sure the baby was safe? (Moses' mother, his sister, Pharaoh's daughter)
2. We are going to act out the story of how baby Moses was hidden and then found by Pharaoh's daughter.
3. Assign roles. Children will probably not notice that most of the characters are women. Everyone can help to protect the precious baby! For a large group, consider doubling roles. (e.g. more brothers or sisters watching, more maidens)
4. *Optional:* help the children dress in costumes.
5. Get the children in their starting positions with Moses' family in their house on one side of the river, and Pharaoh's daughter and her maidens on the other side of the river. Act out the story using the script provided (p. 7).

Choice

Baby Moses Diorama

Each child will create his or her own diorama of the story of baby Moses. Very young children may manage the project more easily with a little more advance preparation, e.g. cutting out the figures, using a blue paper plate instead of a white one.



1. Give each child a white paper plate and a blue crayon. Encourage them to color the plate blue all over—like the water in the Nile River where baby Moses was hidden.
2. Give each child a paper coffee filter and a green crayon. Show the children how to make "reeds" by drawing lines from the middle of the filter toward the edges. Draw on both sides of the filter so that baby Moses will be well hidden.

Materials Needed

Baby Moses Is Found script p. 7, open space for acting, blue sheet or fabric to create a river, "Moses" doll, basket; *optional:* indoor plants or green fabric for "reeds" at the river's edge, simple costumes, a "house" for Moses' family

Prepare in Advance

Set up the room with a river running through it. *Optional:* gather costumes and additional props.

New Church Concept Divine Providence

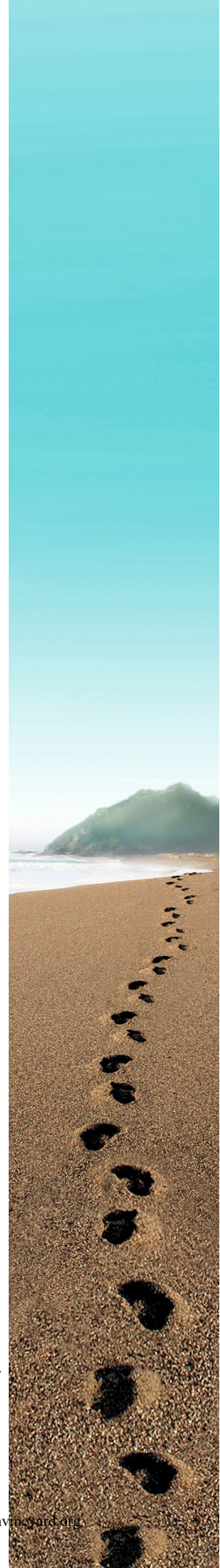
Divine providence is the Divine operation in a person who has set aside love of self.... When this love has been set aside, the Lord enters with the affections of a love for the neighbor...and enables the person to see that there is a heaven. *Divine Providence* 207

Materials Needed for Each Child

coffee filter, white or blue paper plate, green and blue crayons, copy of *Baby Moses Diorama Pictures* p. 8, scissors, tape, *optional:* small piece of fabric to cover baby Moses

Prepare in Advance

Purchase or gather supplies listed. Print a copy of *Baby Moses Diorama Pictures* (p. 8) for each child. For young children, cutting out individual pieces and dividing tape into short segments ahead of time may be helpful.



Baby Moses Diorama *continued*

3. Cut out the *Baby Moses Diorama Pictures* (p. 8). Take care not to cut off the tabs on Miriam and the reed frieze that are provided to make it easier to attach them to the plate (see picture).



4. Cut slits into the reeds, being careful not to cut too deeply and divide them into separate pieces. (See picture of the assembled project on p. 3.)
5. Tape baby Moses on to the coffee filter reeds.
6. Tape the coffee filter reeds to the paper plate.
7. Fold the tab on the reed frieze so the frieze fits around the edge of the plate. Tape the reeds to the plate underneath. Each child will need 3-4 pieces of tape.
8. Bend Miriam's tab forwards and place her in the reeds at the edge of the plate. Tape the tab to the underside of the plate.
9. *Optional:* cover baby Moses with a small square of fabric to keep him warm.

New Church Concept Moses

Moses represents the law of God. In a broad sense God's law means the whole Word; in a narrower sense it means the historical section of the Word; in a restricted sense it means what was written through Moses; and in a very restricted sense it means the Ten Commandments. See *Arcana Coelestia* 6752

Choice Coloring Picture: Finding Moses

Hand out copies of *Finding Moses* (p. 9) for the children to color.

Materials Needed
copies of *Finding Moses* p. 9; crayons, markers, or colored pencils

4. Wrap It Up

Memory Verse

Memory verses for this program focus on how the Lord leads us to heaven, just as He led the children of Israel to the promised land. Today's Memory Verse tells us why we are born on earth, and that the Lord hopes we will choose to follow Him by living a life that leads to heaven. Repeat the following sentence with the children several times and then encourage them to say it by themselves.

Every person is born for heaven.

Heaven and Hell 420

Closing

The Lord protected baby Moses so he could grow up to do an important job. The Lord has a special job for you as well. He protects you so that you can grow up and do your job in His heavenly kingdom.

Give a *Parent Note* (p. 10) to children as they leave.

Moses Is Born Readings

Exodus 1:7-12,22; 2:1-10 - *selections*

To shorten readings, read only the bold text.

The children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, “Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us.”

Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. **And the Egyptians were in dread of the children of Israel....**

So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born [to the children of Israel] you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.”

And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months.

But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river’s bank. And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

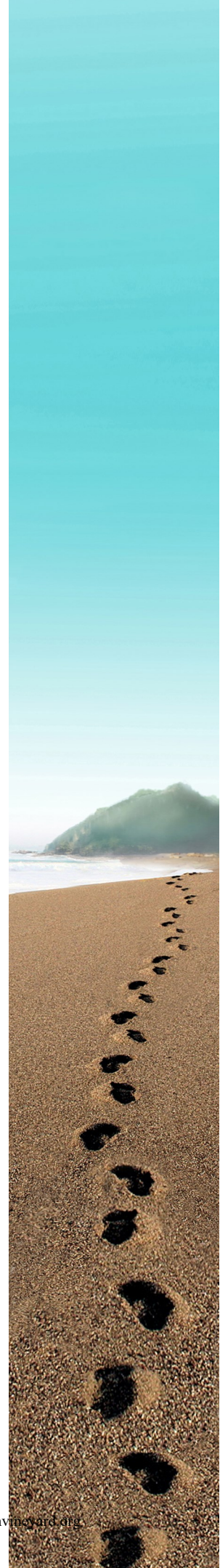
Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it.

And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.”

Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?”

And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go.” So the maiden went and called the child’s mother. Then Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him.

And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, “Because I drew him out of the water.”





Baby Moses Is Found Script

Roles: Moses' mother and father, Moses' sister (Miriam), optional: Moses' brother Aaron, Pharaoh's daughter, Pharaoh's daughter's maids

Set-Up: Create an open space, large enough for Moses' house to be on one side and a river made from a blue sheet or towel on the other side. *Optional:* use chairs to create a house for Moses' family; create "reeds" to hide the baby using plants or green towels and sheets. Ideally, there should be something for Miriam to hide behind.

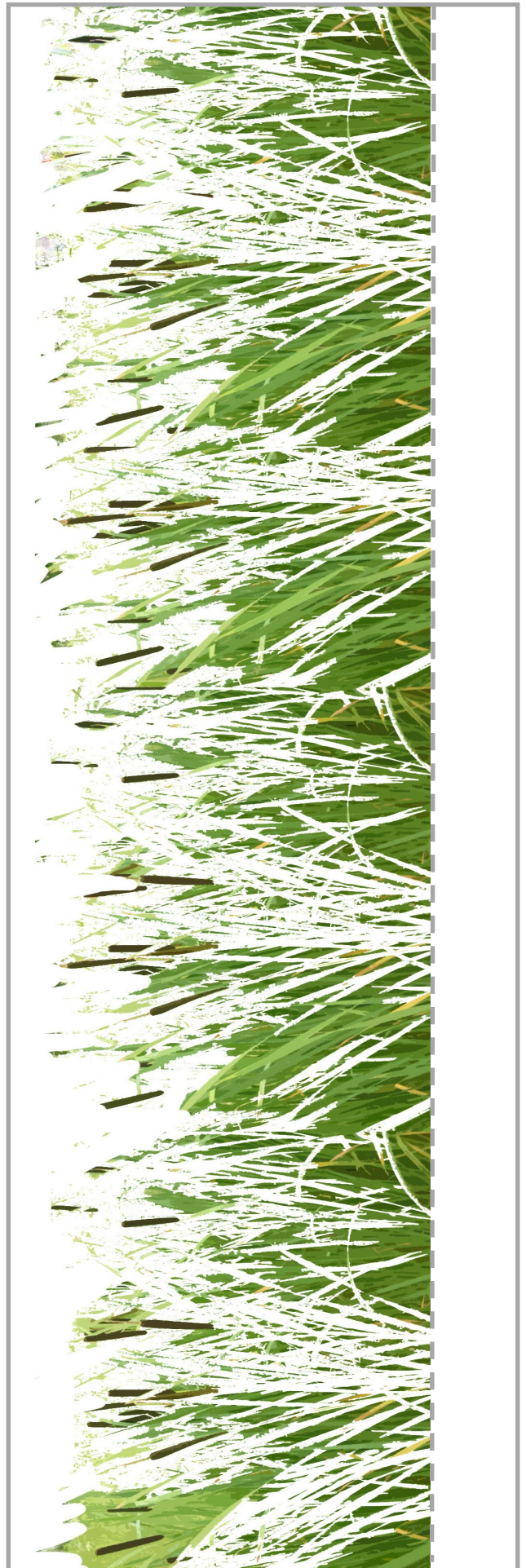
Props: Baby doll, basket, costumes.

The teacher reads the story aloud, pausing to direct the action. Start with Moses's family in their house.

Story to Read	Actions
A man of the house of Levi married a daughter of Levi. And the woman bore a son.	Moses' parents, brother (Aaron) and sister (Miriam) welcome baby Moses to their family.
And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months.	Moses' mother hides him. Motions for everyone to be quiet.
And when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, and daubed it with asphalt and pitch.	Moses' mother takes the basket and pretends to daub on pitch.
She put the child in it and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank.	Put Moses in the basket and place the basket at the edge of the river.
And his sister stood far away, to see what would happen to him.	Miriam watches the baby from the reeds.
Then Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside.	Pharaoh's daughter and maids walk along the river.
And when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it.	Pharaoh's daughter sees the baby, and sends a maid to get him.
And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."	Pharaoh's daughter opens the basket, takes out the baby and comforts him.
Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"	Miriam comes to Pharaoh's daughter and offers to get a nurse.
And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother.	Pharaoh's daughter motions her to go. Miriam runs home.
Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages."	Miriam returns with Moses' mother.
So the woman took the child and nursed him. And the child grew.	Moses' mother takes him home and cares for him with her family. [Replace doll with a child as he grows.]
And she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."	Moses' mother brings him to Pharaoh's daughter.



Baby Moses
Diorama
Pictures





Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

PARENT NOTE

Dear Parents,
Today we learned about baby Moses. The Lord protected baby Moses so he could grow up and do an important job. Listen to a song about baby Moses at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-moses-in-the-bulrushes/>.

Did you know that the Lord has an important job for *every* person He makes? For the next five weeks we will be learning about how the Lord leads and protects us. We will be learning a short Memory Verse each week. Please help your child learn the verses by saying them at bedtime or before a meal.

Memory Verse

Every person is born for heaven.
(Heaven and Hell 420)



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