



The Birth of Moses

Level B

Ages 7-10

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 use for all of us and wants us to be happy forever.

Reading Summary: In setting the scene for today’s story, students 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)	Experiment	Float or Sink directions p. 2	a variety of objects that float or sink in a bag (e.g. coins, keys, apple, wood, Lego, etc.), a container filled with water
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word and Talk About It	<i>see Reading Summary above</i> <i>Moses Is Born Readings</i> p. 5 discussion guide p. 2	
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Make create a personal diorama of baby Moses in the Nile River with realistic looking water made with see-through gel wax or gelatin	Moses in a Cup directions p. 3 <i>Moses in a Cup Assembly Directions</i> p. 7 <i>Baby Moses Pictures</i> p. 8	clear gel wax for candle making, blue crayon to color wax <i>OR</i> unflavored gelatin and blue food coloring, clear plastic cups, green pipe cleaners, black pipe cleaners, scissors, fabric scraps to make blankets for Moses
	Make children learn about Moses’ connection to the written Word and practice writing their names in hieroglyphic symbols	Write Your Name in Hieroglyphs directions pp. 3-4 <i>Hieroglyphic Alphabet</i> p. 9 <i>Cartouche</i> p. 10	markers, scrap paper for practice
	Coloring Picture	Finding Moses p. 11	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. 12	

1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

Float or Sink

Supplies needed: variety of objects in a bag, some of which will float in water (e.g. cork, apple, wood, ball, etc.) and some of which sink (e.g. key, stone, scissors, etc.), a container of water

1. Ask for a volunteer to come and take an object out of the bag and predict whether or not it will float or sink. Then try it to see if the prediction was correct or not.
2. As each object sinks or floats, make two piles: objects that sink and objects that float.
3. When all items have been tested, ask the children whether they think they would sink or float in water? Answers may vary, since people can learn to float. Those who have not yet learned how will sink.
4. How about a baby? Would a baby float or sink? How could you protect a baby from sinking in water? (A person can float in a boat. Moses' mother made a "boat" using a basket and tar or pitch to waterproof it. She gently put the basket in shallow water at the edge of the river.)

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 a new baby do?

The tiny baby in our story was born in great danger. Have you ever been in danger? What was it like?

The Lord was protecting the baby—just as He protects each one of us when we are in danger. The Lord knew that the baby would grow up, and that he had an important job to do.

Baby Moses was one of the children of Israel. His ancestor, Joseph, had saved many people from a famine hundreds of years before, and so the ruler of Egypt had invited his family to live there. Instead of going back to the land of Canaan where they came from, the children of Israel stayed in Egypt.

Many years later, a new ruler became king. He had forgotten what Joseph did and was worried that the children of Israel were becoming a powerful nation. What did he do to stop them growing more powerful? He had all the boy babies killed so they couldn't grow up to be warriors.

How did the Lord protect Moses? He saved his life by giving him a smart and loving mother. His mother hid him for three months. When he grew too big she made an ark, put the baby inside and hid it by the river.

Who came to the river and saw the ark? Pharaoh's (the ruler's) daughter and her maidens.

Who did Moses' sister get to care for the baby? His mother! Now the mother could take care of her baby at home. And she no longer had to hide him or worry about his safety.

When the baby was old enough he was taken to Pharaoh's house. Why did Pharaoh's daughter name him Moses? Because "Moses" means to be taken or "drawn" out of the water.

The Lord protected baby Moses, and he was able to grow up to do an important job. The Lord has a special use for each of us to do as well. As we get older we can discover ways to use the talents and abilities the Lord has given us.

Most of all, the Lord wants to lead us to heaven. If we choose to follow Him there, He will bless us with happiness forever.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice

Moses in a Cup

Make a small diorama of baby Moses in a basket floating on the water in the reeds.



1. In what country was baby Moses born? (Egypt)
2. Baby Moses' mother protected him by putting him in a basket among the papyrus reeds that grew on the banks of the Nile River. Aside from protecting baby Moses, what was papyrus used for? (To make the world's first "paper" or "papyrus".)
3. Papyrus was very important, because it meant that people could write down the Lord's Word. In fact, Moses himself wrote down the first five books of the Word. They are often called the "Books of Moses". So it's interesting that baby Moses was found right in the papyrus in the Nile River!
4. We are going to make a diorama of baby Moses hiding in the papyrus at the edge of the Nile.
5. Distribute supplies. Guide the children through making the project using the photo directions (p. 7).
6. As the children complete their projects remind them that baby Moses was found in the papyrus reeds, which he later used to write down the Word for the Lord.

Choice

Write Your Name in Hieroglyphs

New Church teachings tell us that Moses represents the Word. It makes sense that Moses was brought up in Egypt, one of the places where writing was first developed. Children write their names in hieroglyphs.

1. You remember that Pharaoh's daughter found Moses in an ark in the river among the reeds. These reeds were called papyrus, and they were used to make the first paper. Egypt was one of the first places to develop a written language. The Egyptian language was written down in pictures that we call hieroglyphs. Moses may have learned hieroglyphs when he was brought up in Pharaoh's house.



Materials Needed for Each Child

clear plastic cup; 3 green pipe cleaners; 1 black pipe cleaner; gel wax (candle making supply available in craft stores) and blue crayon to color wax, *OR* unflavored gelatin and blue food coloring (NOTE: gelatin will mold over time); fabric scraps, *Baby Moses* Picture from p. 8

Prepare in Advance

Melt gel wax in a pan on the stove (NOT microwave). Add blue crayon shavings. When slightly cooled pour into clear plastic cups so it will harden before you begin the project with the children. *OR* use unflavored gelatin. Mix according to package directions. Add blue food coloring. Allow time to gel. Each packet makes enough for 4 projects.

New Church Concept Moses

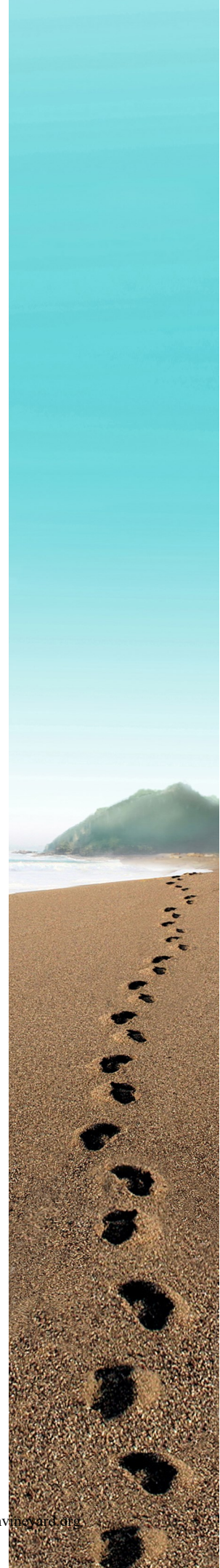
Moses represents the law of God. In a broad sense God's law means the whole Word; in a narrower sense it means the historical section of the Word; in a restricted sense it means what was written through Moses; and in a very restricted sense it means the Ten Commandments. *Arcana Coelestia* 6752

Materials Needed for Each Child

See next page.

Prepare in Advance

See next page.



Write Your Name in Hieroglyphs *continued*

- Why do you think it was important for people to invent a written language. (Encourage brainstorming, e.g. messages across distances, time, etc.)
- The most important reason was so the Lord's Word could be written down, preserved and shared. The first five books of the Word are sometimes called "the books of Moses". Moses was told to write these books down by the Lord.
- Hieroglyphs started out as a picture language, where a picture would represent a word or an idea. Over time, some of the hieroglyphs also came to be used like the letters in our alphabet which stand for sounds. Hand out the *Hieroglyphic Alphabet*, (p. 9) and *Cartouche* (p. 10).
- We are going to write our names in hieroglyphs. The *Cartouche* page shows what papyrus looked like. The shape on it is a cartouche. Cartouches were put around the names of Pharaohs and other royal people. Ancient Egyptians believed that having an oval around a name helped protect a person from evil spirits. Write your name inside the cartouche, and think about how the Lord looks after and protects you as He looked after and protected Moses.
- Help children find the symbols for the letters of their names. Practice on scrap paper before writing in the cartouche! If students finish quickly encourage them to add their last name as well.
- Remember Moses represented the Word. He helped to write some of it down so that we can read it.

Materials Needed for Each Child

copy of *Hieroglyphic Alphabet* p. 9, copy of *Cartouche* p. 10, markers, scrap paper

Prepare in Advance

Print out pp. 9 and 10. Make a sample of a name in a *Cartouche* to show.

New Church Concept The Written Word

There are many reasons why it pleased the Lord to be born...on our earth.... The main reason was for the sake of the Word, in that it could be written on our earth, and when written could then be published throughout the whole earth; and once published could be preserved for all future generations.... *Arcana Coelestia* 9350-9351

Materials Needed

copies of *Finding Moses* p. 11; crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Choice

Coloring Picture: Finding Moses

Hand out copies of *Finding Moses* (p. 11) for children to color.

4. Wrap It Up

Memory Verse

The Memory Verses in this series focus on ways in which the Lord leads us—just as He led Moses and the children of Israel. This lessons starts with the Lord's purpose for us—which is a life in heaven. Repeat the verse below several times, then encourage the children to say it with you, and finally see if they can say it on their own.

Every person is born for heaven.

Heaven and Hell 420

Closing

The Lord brings each of us into the world so we can do a special job or "use", and He gives us talents so that we can do this job. If we do what He teaches us in His Word, we will do this use forever in heaven.

Give a *Parent Note* (p. 12) to children as they leave.

Moses Is Born Readings

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

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.

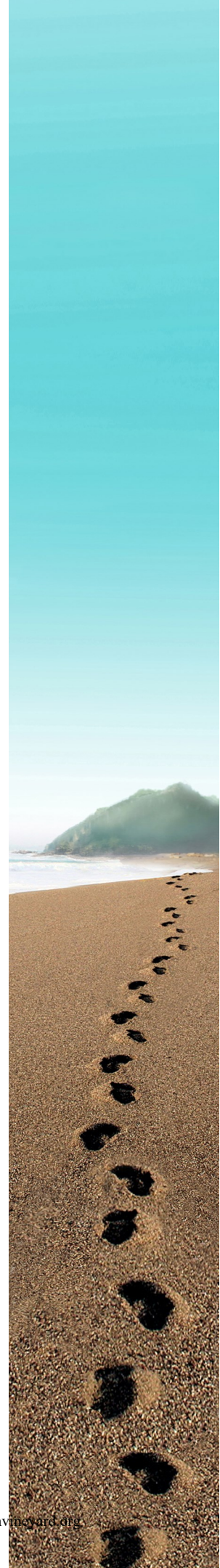
Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it.

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.

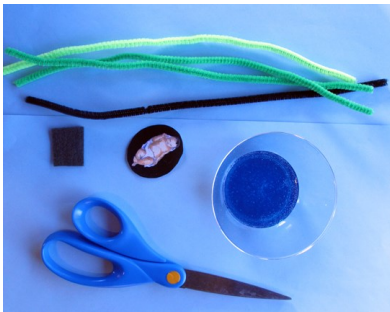
And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, “Because I drew him out of the water.”





Moses in a Cup

1. Gather the project supplies you will need.



2. Cut neatly around baby Moses.



3. *Optional:* Cut a blanket to fit over baby Moses.



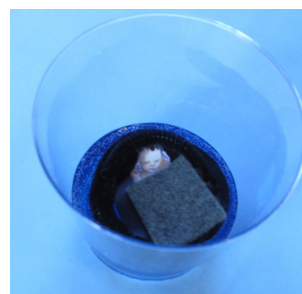
4. Form black pipe cleaner into a circle by wrapping it twice to create a basket for baby Moses. Fasten the ends.



5. Place Moses in the basket, making adjustments to the basket as needed.



6. “Float” baby Moses in the basket on the “Nile River” in the cup.

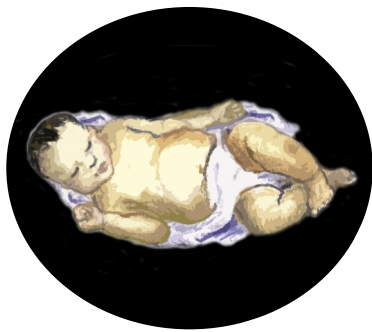
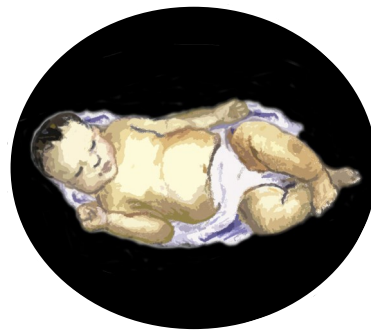
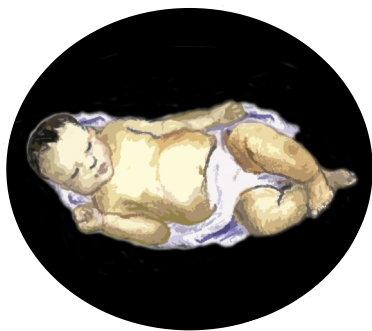
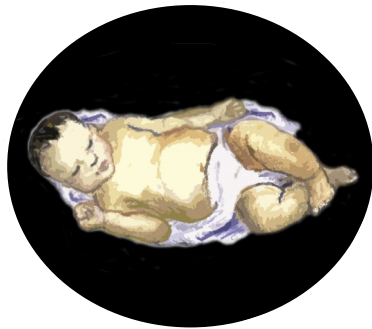
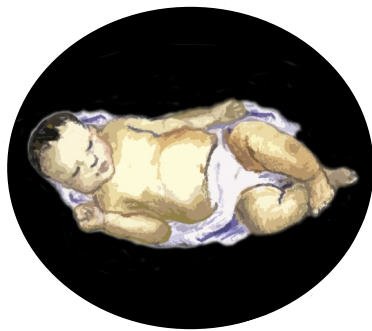
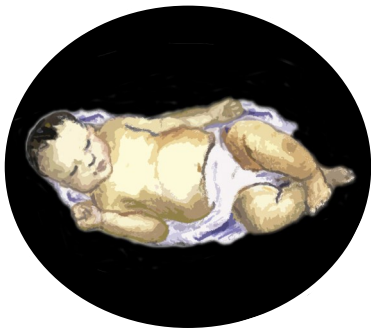


7. Cut the green pipe cleaners into short lengths and put them around baby Moses to represent the papyrus reeds growing on the banks of the Nile.

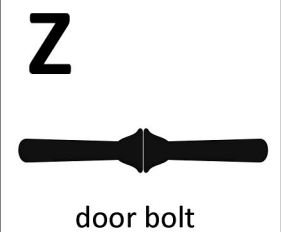
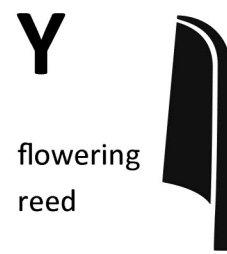
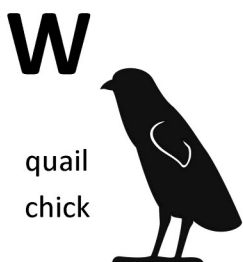
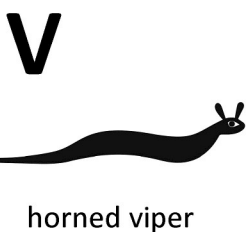
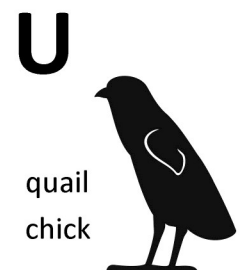
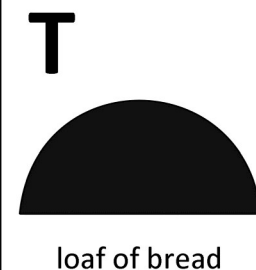
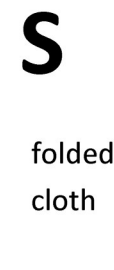
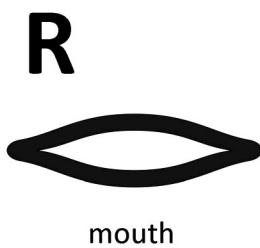
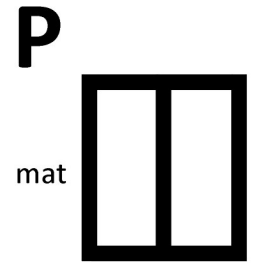
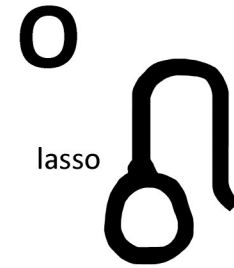
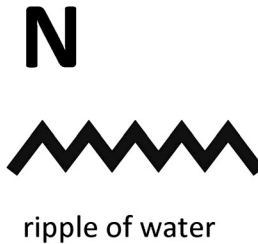
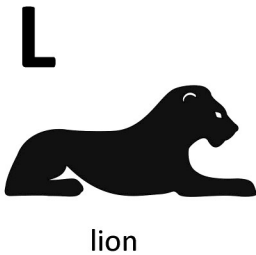
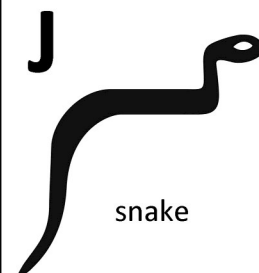
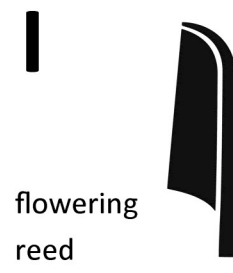
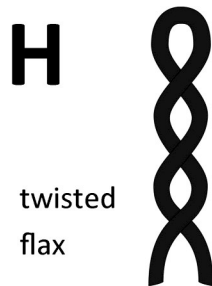
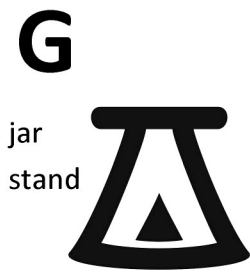
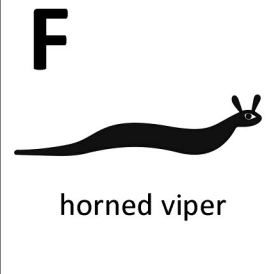
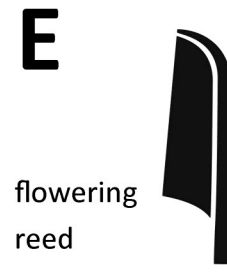
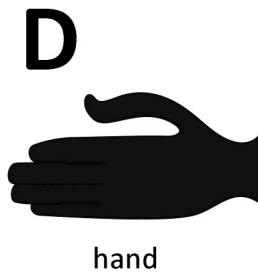
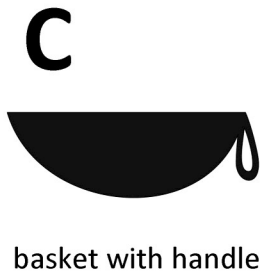
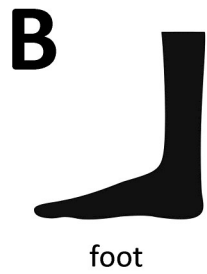


8. Remind the children that the papyrus reeds were used to make “paper” or papyrus so that the Word could be written down by Moses.





Hieroglyphic Alphabet





Cartouche



Parent Notes

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

PARENT NOTE

Dear Parents,
Today we started learning about the story of Mo-ses. To hear a song about this story online, go to <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-moses-in-the-bulrushes/>.

Memory Verses for this series focus on the Lord's purpose for our lives and His leading. We encourage you to help your child learn them by saying them before meals or at bedtime.

Memory Verse

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



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