

Baby Moses

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: God watches over His people and works out His plan, so we can trust Him and do what is right, even when we are afraid.

Bible passage: Exodus 1:8–2:10. Read it before class.

Memory verse: "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." *Psalms 91:11 (KJV)*

You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a tray with 10 small objects on it (a spoon, a crayon, a cup and so on), a towel to cover the tray, a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.

Before class: write the memory verse on the board. Set up the covered tray.

1. Opening game: Keep Watch (5–10 minutes)

Uncover the tray for 30 seconds while everyone watches closely. Cover it, take one object away without anyone seeing, and uncover it again. Who can tell what is missing? Play three or four rounds, taking away a different object each time. Say: "You had to watch carefully. Today we will meet a girl who kept watch over something much more important than a tray: her baby brother."

2. Bible story: God Watches Over Baby Moses (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Exodus 1. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

A king who was afraid. Jacob's family, the children of Israel (also called the Hebrews), had moved to Egypt. After Joseph died, they grew into a huge nation (Exodus 1:6–7). **Look up Exodus 1:8.** ("Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.") This new Pharaoh was afraid that the Hebrews would join his enemies (1:9–10). So he set **taskmasters**, harsh bosses, over them. They built the treasure cities of Pithom and Raamses and did hard work with mortar and brick (1:11, 1:14). But the harder Pharaoh made their lives, the more they grew (1:12).

Two brave women. Pharaoh told the Hebrew **midwives**, women who help mothers when babies are born, not to let the baby boys live. Their names were Shiphrah and Puah (1:15–16). **Look up Exodus 1:17.** The midwives **feared God**, which means they respected God more than the king, and they saved the baby boys. God was good to them (1:20–21). Then Pharaoh commanded all his people: every Hebrew baby boy must be thrown into the river (1:22).

Hidden for three months. A man and a woman from the family of Levi had a son (2:1–2). **Look up Exodus 2:2.** She saw that he was a **goodly** child, a fine, beautiful baby, and she hid him three months. Hebrews 11:23 says his parents did this **by faith**, and they were not afraid of the king's order.



The ark of bulrushes. Look up Exodus 2:3. She made an **ark** (a box that floats) of **bulrushes**, tall plants that grow in water. She **daubed** it, which means she spread it all over, with slime and with pitch, a sticky tar that keeps water out. She laid it in the **flags**, the reeds, by the river's **brink**, its edge. **Look up Exodus 2:4.** His sister stood afar off, "to wit what would be done to him." **To wit** means to find out.

Pharaoh's daughter. Pharaoh's daughter came down to wash herself at the river, while her maidens (helpers) walked along the riverside. She saw the ark among the flags and sent her maid to fetch it (2:5). **Look up Exodus 2:6.** She opened it, and the baby was crying. She had **compassion** on him, which means she felt sorry for him and wanted to help, and she knew he was one of the Hebrews' children.

The brave sister. Look up Exodus 2:7. His sister offered to call a Hebrew **nurse**, a woman who would feed the baby and take care of him. Pharaoh's daughter said, "Go," and the girl called the child's own mother (2:8). Pharaoh's daughter told her to take the baby and nurse him, and she would pay her **wages** (2:9). The king had ordered the baby boys thrown into the river, and now his own daughter was paying Moses' mother to raise one of them!

Drawn out of the water. Look up Exodus 2:10. When the child grew, his mother brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him **Moses**, "Because I drew him out of the water." Moses was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians (Acts 7:22). Years later, God sent Moses to bring His people out of Egypt (Exodus 3:10).

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Moses' mother couldn't stop Pharaoh, but she did everything she could (2:2–3). What does trusting God look like when you can't fix a problem yourself?
2. His sister was brave enough to speak to the king's daughter (2:7). When might God want you to speak up?
3. Pharaoh wanted to hurt the Hebrew boys, but his own daughter saved one and paid his mother to raise him (2:6–9). What does that show us about God?
4. Shiphrah and Puah feared God more than the king (1:17). What does it mean to obey God even when someone important says to do wrong?
5. God was keeping a baby safe who would one day lead His people out of Egypt (3:10). How might God be getting you ready for something?

Recall questions

1. How long did his mother hide him? (*Three months, Exodus 2:2*)
2. What was the ark made of? (*Bulrushes, daubed with slime and pitch, 2:3*)
3. What does the name Moses remind us of? (*She drew him out of the water, 2:10*)



4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **thee** and **thy** mean you and your, **charge over thee** means the job of watching over you, and **in all thy ways** means everywhere you go. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God watched over baby Moses because He had a plan for him. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

This week: when you feel afraid, say Psalm 91:11 and then do the right thing anyway, like Moses' mother, his sister and the midwives did.



6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Exodus 1:11: What two cities did the Hebrews build for Pharaoh? (*Pithom and Raamses*)
2. Exodus 1:15: What were the names of the two midwives? (*Shiphrah and Puah*)
3. Exodus 1:17: Why did the midwives save the baby boys? (*They feared God*)
4. Exodus 2:1: Which family were Moses' father and mother from? (*The house of Levi*)
5. Exodus 2:3: What two things did his mother spread on the ark? (*Slime and pitch*)
6. Exodus 2:5: Why did Pharaoh's daughter come down to the river? (*To wash herself*)
7. Exodus 2:6: What was the baby doing when she opened the ark? (*Crying: "the babe wept"*)
8. Exodus 2:9: What did Pharaoh's daughter promise to give Moses' mother? (*Her wages, which means pay*)

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for watching over baby Moses and for watching over us. Help us trust You when we can't fix things ourselves, and give us courage to do right even when we are afraid. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks why the king wanted to hurt babies: answer simply and gently. Pharaoh was afraid the Hebrews would join his enemies, and he made a very wrong choice (Exodus 1:9–10, 1:22). But God used brave people to protect the babies (1:17), and He kept Moses safe for His plan.

Moses' sister's name: Exodus 2 just calls her "his sister." Later the Bible names her Miriam (Numbers 26:59).

