Preschool–Grade 6

Baby Moses

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: God works out His plan through ordinary people who trust Him more than they fear anyone else.
Bible passage: Exodus 1:8–2:10. Students read Exodus 1:8–22 and 2:1–10 out loud themselves.
Memory verse: "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." *Psalm 91:11 (KJV)* and "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment." *Hebrews 11:23 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read Exodus 1–2, Hebrews 11:23–25 and Acts 7:20–22. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses, or go around the room a few verses each.

1. Opening game: How Scary Is It? (5–10 minutes)

Name one wall of the room "not scary" and the opposite wall "very scary." Read each situation. Students stand somewhere on the line between the walls to show how hard it would be to do right. 1) A friend is being picked on, and you are the only one who speaks up. 2) You broke something, and telling the truth means you will get in trouble. 3) You pray before lunch when no one else at your table does. 4) Friends want to watch something you know is wrong, and you say no. Ask: *What helps a person do right when they are afraid?* Say: "This story is full of people who did right when it was dangerous."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Read out loud: Exodus 1:8–22. Students take turns, a few verses each. Old words in this passage:

- **knew not Joseph** (1:8): did not know or care what Joseph had done for Egypt
- **deal wisely with them** (1:10): be clever and scheming against them
- **taskmasters** (1:11): harsh slave bosses; **afflict**: to hurt and make suffer
- **with rigour** (1:13–14): harshly, without mercy; **bondage**: slavery; **morter**: the mud that holds bricks together
- **midwives** (1:15): women who help mothers when babies are born
- **feared God** (1:17): respected God more than the king; **made them houses** (1:21): gave them families of their own

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Read out loud: Exodus 2:1–10. Old words in this passage:

- **goodly child** (2:2): a fine, beautiful baby
- **ark of bulrushes** (2:3): a floating basket woven from tall water plants; **daubed**: spread all over; **pitch**: sticky tar
- **flags** (2:3, 2:5): reeds; **brink** (2:3): edge
- **to wit** (2:4): to find out
- **compassion** (2:6): felt sorry and wanted to help
- **nurse** (2:7–9): to feed and care for a baby; **wages** (2:9): pay

Tell the rest in your own words: Later the Bible tells us the family's names. Moses' father was Amram and his mother was Jochebed (Exodus 6:20). His sister was Miriam, and he had an older brother, Aaron (Numbers 26:59; Exodus 7:7). Hebrews 11:23 says his parents hid him **by faith**, and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. Stephen said Moses was "exceeding fair," nourished in his father's house three months, and then raised by Pharaoh's daughter as her own son, learning all the wisdom of the Egyptians (Acts 7:20–22). When Moses was grown, he chose to suffer with God's people instead of enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season, which means for a short time (Hebrews 11:24–25). Years later God sent him to bring Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 3:10).

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. Shiphrah and Puah disobeyed the most powerful man in Egypt because they feared God (1:17). When is it right to say no to someone in charge? How do you know?
2. Moses' mother hid him three months, then did the one thing she could still do (2:2–3). Hebrews 11:23 calls that faith. How is faith different from just hoping things work out?
3. His sister "stood afar off" to see what would happen (2:4), then spoke up at exactly the right moment (2:7). What does it take to be ready when God opens a door?
4. Pharaoh's order was meant to destroy Israel's future, but God used Pharaoh's own daughter to rescue the baby who would set Israel free, and she even paid his mother to raise him (2:5–10). Where have you seen God turn something bad around?
5. Moses grew up with every advantage in Egypt, but he chose God's people (Hebrews 11:24–25). What "pleasures for a season" do people your age have to choose against?
6. God was at work in this story for years before anyone could see His plan. How does that help when you can't see what God is doing in your life right now?

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4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words in Hebrews 11:23: **was hid three months of his parents** means his parents hid him for three months. **A proper child** means a fine, beautiful child. **The king's commandment** means Pharaoh's order to throw the baby boys into the river (Exodus 1:22). In Psalm 91:11, **charge over thee** means the job of watching over you.
Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Psalm 91:11 this week; keep working on Hebrews 11:23 next week too.

5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "God protected Moses and later used him to set His people free. God loves you, and He has a plan for you too. But 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."
Pray with the students, 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.

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6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. Where in my life am I afraid to do what is right? Who or what am I afraid of?
2. Moses' mother, his sister and the midwives each did one brave thing. What is one brave, right thing I can do this week?
3. Write a short prayer asking God to help you trust Him more than you fear anyone else.
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: when you are afraid to do right, remember Hebrews 11:23: Moses' parents "were not afraid of the king's commandment." Do the right thing anyway, and trust God with what happens next.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for watching over Moses and for watching over us. Help us fear You more than we fear anyone else, and give us faith to do the right thing even when it is hard. Thank You for loving us and making a way to save us through Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a student asks why God let the king's order happen at all: answer honestly and gently. The Bible doesn't explain everything, but it shows that Pharaoh's choice was wrong (Exodus 1:22), that God saw His people's suffering (Exodus 2:24–25; 3:7), and that He was already raising up Moses to set them free. God is always good and fair.

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