



The Littlest Sailor

Primary 3-7

Bible Text:

Exodus 2:1-10

Lesson Aim:

To teach children that trust in God can help us have courage in times of trial.

Memory Verse:

“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

Words to Learn:

- Ark
- Bulrushes
- Slave
- Hebrews

Always Close in Prayer

The Teacher's Bible Study

Faith is the motivator which causes us to live a godly life. From this it follows that one who has real belief in God and trusts in His promises will demonstrate this by obedience. Indeed, “whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23). Faith alone is not an end; rather it is the vehicle by which we may obtain salvation. Salvation can in no way be earned, either by obedience or faith, for nothing man can do would obligate God to grant salvation had He not decided to give man this gift of His own volition. God, nevertheless, has obligated Himself to grant salvation if one has living faith, and trust is a part of this living faith. God says the presence of this faith is counted in His eyes as righteousness and indeed justifies us before God (Romans 4:1-7).

A woman named Jochebed possessed this living faith and trust.

Joseph Who?

About 400 years prior to our story, the events of Joseph and his family took place. After Joseph died, many years passed and the new Pharaoh did not respect Joseph's memory or his family. This Pharaoh enslaved the descendants of Joseph and his brothers. At an appointed time a beautiful little baby boy was born into a Hebrew slave family.

The Hebrews had multiplied greatly even in their slavery. Some Egyptians began to fear that this slave population could rise up and fight against them, along with their enemies. Pharaoh decided to do a little population control. He ordered the Egyptian midwives, who helped the Hebrew women in their labor, to kill all newborn baby boys that they delivered. However, the women feared God and disobeyed this hideous order.

When this became known to Jochebed, she wasted no time to protect her baby. She was able to keep the delivery of her baby from common knowledge. Perhaps she padded herself to make it appear that she was still carrying a child—the Bible does not tell us. An idea began to take shape in her mind. She fashioned a basket out of papyrus. Papyrus grows in abundance along the banks of the Nile River. Since it was Jochebed's plan to hide her baby in the basket on the river, the basket would need to be waterproof. She covered the basket with tar and pitch (Exodus 2:3). Jochebed placed her baby in the basket and hid it in the bulrushes near the Nile.

Bulrushes are a plant that grow between 10–15 feet tall and three feet thick. In ancient times they were harvested to make paper and boats. It was a sturdy and proven method of building. It was exactly what she needed.

Jochebed crept to the bank of the Nile and gently lay her small son within the floating cradle. There she instructed her daughter to keep watch over it. If the soldiers came to take her baby, Jochebed would know he was safely hidden in the basket within the thick reeds of the river.

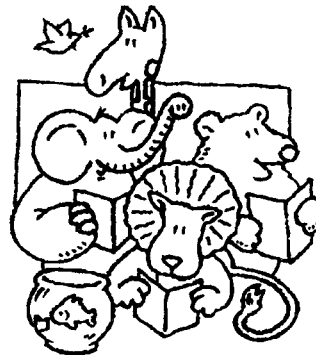
One can only imagine how the heart of Jochebed sank when she was first told that Pharaoh's daughter had found her baby. Apparently this princess did not agree with the Pharaoh's cruel edict, for, although she knew it was a Hebrew baby, she put him into her protection. She named him Moses.

Jochebed must have been full of conflicting emotions. Her heart knew that her precious baby had been spared, and she rejoiced. But, she also had to feel the great loss. Foremost in her mind was the knowledge that he would be safe now.

Amazingly, the Egyptian princess then hired Moses' mother to nurse him and take care of him. How utterly thankful to God Jochebed must have been. It is another example of God's ability to turn a bad situation into good.

It is an astounding account of the faith of a desperate and loving mother in severe trial. She knew that God would protect her son. She did her part, all the while believing God would do His. □

Simple as 1,2,3...



1. Additional Reading for Teacher Study

Hebrews 11

2. Are You Listening?

After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:

1. *True or false:* The name Moses means "drawn out"—*TRUE*
2. *True or false:* Moses' mother trusted God to save her son—*TRUE*
3. *True or false:* God was watching over the little baby—*TRUE*
4. *True or false:* The princess knew the child was a Hebrew—*TRUE*
5. *True or false:* The princess felt sorry for the crying baby—*TRUE*.
6. *True or false:* When the princess found the baby, Jochebed never saw her little son again—*FALSE*
7. *True or false:* You can trust God. He is your friend—*TRUE*
8. *True or false:* God can make good things happen out of bad circumstances—*TRUE*

3. Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from *Webster's New World Dictionary*.

- **Ark**—a vessel used to keep something safely enclosed.
- **Bulrushes**—papyrus; reeds similar to a cattail.
- **Slave**—a person who is the property of and completely subject to and dominated by another.
- **Hebrews**—descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

SKY Story Time

The Littlest Sailor

A long time ago into the land of Egypt there came a young man who had been sold into slavery. His name was Joseph. Joseph was a devout young man dedicated to serving God, and God watched over him and had a special job for him to do. With God's help he interpreted a dream of the ruling pharaoh. This helped save many Egyptian lives and in turn Joseph became very loved and respected in Egypt. Eventually Joseph died, and after many years his descendants and those of his family were made the slaves of the Egyptians. The people that descended from Joseph and his brothers were called Hebrews, or the children of Israel.

Being a slave is a terrible, terrible thing. A slave is different than being a servant. A servant is paid for certain services—it is a job. A slave is a living human being owned like a cow, horse, or sheep. The owner has total power; the slave has none.

Many years passed and the families of the Hebrews grew, and grew, and grew! The pharaoh decided that the Hebrew population had become so large that they could be dangerous to his rule. He devised a very wicked plan.

This king decided to control the population by killing all the boy babies that were born to the Hebrews. This order by the king

put fear into the hearts of the people. It was a horrible thing to do.

The Hebrews all must have cried and wondered what they could do. There was one mother who asked God for help. She asked God to show her a way to save the life of her newborn son.

Jochebed needed to conceal the delivery of her child. No one could know that she had already had her baby! They were to think she was STILL carrying her baby. She successfully hid the baby for three months without being detected.

After praying and giving much thought to what she must do, a plan came to her. She decided she would make a small basket that would serve as a boat for her baby. It was a desperate plan, but one SHE chose! She would not surrender her baby! God would save him.

She crafted the basket out of the tall papyrus reeds from the Nile River, and covered the basket with tar. It was waterproof! Jochebed and her daughter Miriam went to the river's edge to hide the basket.

Jochebed fed her baby, thinking *Perhaps this is the last time*. He nursed until he couldn't hold anymore warm milk. He then slept contentedly. She held the warm weight of her little boy closely in her arms, smelling his soft, dark hair. With sad determination, she lay the sleeping baby in his cradle

and tucked his blankets securely around him. He would sleep through the night in the gently rocking little boat. She whispered softly, "Don't be afraid, my son. God will take care of you,"

She then instructed her daughter Miriam to stay close by and watch out for her little brother.

Jochebed returned to her home. If soldiers came to her home to see if she had delivered the baby, she could tell the truth and say that there was no baby boy in her house (for her baby was hidden in a basket in the river).

Certainly Jochebed must have immediately kneeled down and prayed to God, thanking Him for giving her the idea of the basket.

Is Anyone There?

The next morning the birds along the river came awake and called "good morning" to everything that opened its eyes to the warmth of the sun.

The small form of a sleeping girl lay near the river's edge. She came suddenly awake and peered anxiously through the soft yellow light to see if she could see the floating bed. And it was gone!

Quickly she walked along the bank toward a sound. From just up ahead, Miriam heard the sounds of voices. Oh, no, it was the Pharaoh's daughter! Her heart must have thudded with fright as the princess and her servants drew nearer. The floating cradle was clearly visible!

Miriam could hear the sounds of the hungry baby, fretting. The little ark had come to rest against the bank. His cries were insistent;

he was awake and hungry! His sister hid behind the bushes to watch.

The Egyptian princess noticed the sounds coming from the strangely crafted little boat that bobbed up and down at the water's edge. She sent a maid to pick it out of the water. They undid the latch and lifted up the lid. Inside a hungry baby fussed and squinted in the light. He was so beautiful, and so very hungry.

The heart of the princess was moved by the sight. She knew this was the baby of a desperate Hebrew mother. She also noticed a small girl standing anxiously nearby. The girl asked if the princess would like her to find a nurse for her among the Hebrew women.

Miraculously she said yes, and Jochebed had her baby placed back in her arms under the protection of the princess, and with wages! The princess called him Moses. It means "drawn out," because out of the water he had come!

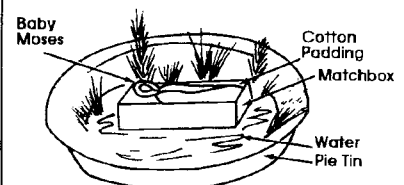
Moses' mother had gone to God in prayer and complete faith that He would give her an answer to her prayer. From this we learn that God can take a trial and turn it into something good for us if we trust Him! **The End**

Crafty Idea

To make the baby: Draw the baby's face on the wooden spoon. Wrap him in the cloth and use the colored thread to hold it closed. To make the basket: Cover the matchbox with foil and pad the inside with cotton. Place the baby inside the box. Fill the pie tin halfway up with water. Place the basket in the "river."

Crafty Ideas

Rockabye Baby Moses



Materials To Use:

(for each doll)

- 1 small flat wooden ice cream spoon
- swatch of colorful material for blanket
- colored thread,
- black fine-point felt-tip pen
- Empty large matchbox
- empty tin-foil pie pan
- Cotton balls