

Miriam and Moses (Ex 2:1-10)

Read Exodus 2:1-10 and watch the video.

1. Why did Moses' mother float him down the Nile River? When you don't understand something you read, try reading a bit before or after the passage in question. This applies to anything you read.

2. Who named Moses?

3. What was Moses known for?

4. Can you discern the sequence of events of God's plan for Moses?

Miriam and Moses (Ex 2:1-10)
Teacher Notes

Video Abstract (Author: Max7.org): The new Egyptian Pharaoh, who had no knowledge of Joseph, viewed the growing number of Israelites as a threat to his kingdom. The Pharaoh tried to get rid of all newborn Hebrew babies to stop the continued growth. But one very special child is spared. This short animation is suitable for all ages.

Either read Exodus 2:1-10 or choose 2 girls, one to speak as the princess and the other as Miriam, and the teacher as narrator:

There were at this time a Hebrew fellow and girl of the tribe of Levi who married and had a family, and a baby son was born to them. When the baby's mother saw that he was an unusually beautiful baby, she hid him at home for three months. Then, when she could no longer hide him, she made a little boat from papyrus reeds, waterproofed it with tar, put the baby in it, and laid it among the reeds along the river's edge. The baby's sister watched from a distance to see what would happen to him.

Well, this is what happened: A princess, one of Pharaoh's daughters, came down to bathe in the river, and as she and her maids were walking along the riverbank, she spied the little boat among the reeds and sent one of the maids to bring it to her. When she opened it, there was a baby! And he was crying. This touched her heart. "He must be one of the Hebrew children!" she said.

Then the baby's sister approached the princess and asked her, "Shall I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

"Yes, do!" the princess replied. So the little girl rushed home and called her mother!

"Take this child home and nurse him for me," the princess instructed the baby's mother, "and I will pay you well!" So she took him home and nursed him.

Later, when he was older, she brought him back to the princess and he became her son. She named him Moses (meaning "to draw out") because she had drawn him out of the water. (Ex 2:1-10, TLB)

Show the video.

1. Why did Moses' mother float him down the Nile River? When you don't understand something you read, try reading a bit before or after the passage in question. This applies to anything you read.

Help the student learn how to read the Bible in context:

Earlier, Exodus 1:15-22 helps us understand why Moses was floated down the river.

Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, instructed the Hebrew midwives (their names were Shiphrah and Puah) to kill all Hebrew boys as soon as they were born, but to let the girls live. But the midwives feared God and didn't obey the king—they let the boys live too.

The king summoned them before him and demanded, "Why have you disobeyed my command and let the baby boys live?"

"Sir," they told him, "the Hebrew women have their babies so quickly that we can't get there in time! They are not slow like the Egyptian women!"

And God blessed the midwives because they were God-fearing women. So the people of Israel continued to multiply and to become a mighty nation. And because the midwives revered God, he gave them children of their own. Then Pharaoh commanded all of his people to throw the newborn Hebrew boys into the Nile River. But the girls, he said, could live. (Ex 1:15-22, TLB)

Help the student understand some terms:

Midwives assist in the delivery of babies. Pharaoh commanded all of his people to throw the newborn Hebrew boys into the river.

2. Who named Moses?

This question places a focus on the fact that Moses was named by Pharaoh's daughter and given an Egyptian name! We do not know what Moses' mother named him.

3. What was Moses known for?

While you summarize these passages to the student, it would be helpful to them to write the verse reference down for the possibility that they may refer to them later.

Instruct the student: write down these verses so that you can read them later:

(Ex 3:10) – Sent to Pharaoh. Moses was sent to Pharaoh to bring God's people out of Egypt.

(Ex 14:21-29) – Parted and closed the sea. Moses led the nation of Israel out of Egypt and eliminated any pursuit by the Egyptians by parting the sea and closing it on the pursuers.

(Ex 19:3-9) – Made the covenant. Using Moses as the go between, God makes a covenant with the nation of Israel.

(Ex 34:27-28) – Recorded God's words. Moses records what God tells him and writes the first five books of the Bible. Thirteen authors of the Bible and Jesus Christ indicate that Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible.

4. Do you see the sequence of events of God's plan for Moses? What do you see?

Show the video again and have the group share their thoughts. Write their thoughts on a board and help them see a sequence. Don't worry if their thoughts are simple.

- a) Pharaoh wanted to kill Hebrew boys.
- b) Moses' mother floated him down the Nile River.
- c) Pharaoh's daughter rescued the baby and gave him the name of Moses.
- d) Moses' sister Miriam recommended her mom to be a nurse for the baby.
- e) Moses grew up in a royal household and received an education to write and later produce the Pentateuch.

Everyone did what was best from their perspective at that moment in time, which God foreknew and all worked in accordance to His plan.