

LESSON

1

BIBLE BASIS:

Exodus 1:1–2:10

BIBLE POINT:

 *God cares for us.*

GOD SAVES BABY MOSES

SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Big, Big God* CD
- adult volunteer
- paper crown
- baby doll
- basket
- photocopy of “Baby Moses” script
- lamp
- white sheet
- blocks
- dolls or stuffed animals
- baskets
- blankets
- modeling dough
- chow mein noodles
- chocolate frosting
- baby carrots
- fruit leather squares
- non-stick spray
- small paper plates
- pitcher of water
- Big, Big God* Kit

PREPARATION

Before the children arrive:

- Set out blocks, stuffed animals, or other classroom toys for the children to play with when they arrive.
- For *Big, Big Bible Blast*, set up a shadow theater near a wall with an electrical outlet. Here’s how: Create a screen by hanging a white sheet from the ceiling. Or, cut out a large section from one side of a refrigerator box. Also cut away the back of the box. Stretch and secure a white sheet across the opening from inside. Then, plug in a table lamp and place it about eight feet behind the screen. (Remember



TEACHER TIP

If you have the Whirl-n-Worship DVD, this is a great time to use it to help the children worship and wiggle along. Play the "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 7) segment now!



TEACHER TIP

For some of your preschoolers, this may be the first time they've been in a group setting away from home. You may see some separation anxiety expressed by crying, clinging to parents, or acting out in other ways. Try to arrange to have a few extra adults on hand to help settle the children down.



TEACHER TIP

Although this story has many elements that could be frightening to children, there is also a central theme of God's tender care for a precious child. We've designed this lesson to focus on God's care, a theme which will be comforting and reassuring to the children in your class. Children can come away with a wonderful sense of God's love for little ones.

to remove the lamp shade and tape down the cord so no one trips over it.)

- Set the supplies on a table or counter, and cover the supplies with a sheet.
- Familiarize yourself with the words and motions to the songs you'll be singing.

Big, Big WELCOME



Supplies: CD player

As children arrive, greet each child with an enthusiastic smile, and lead each child to the play area. This one-on-one connection is a great way to start your time together.

Tell the children that you're glad they've come today, and invite them to play with the toys you've set out. When everyone has arrived, help the children put away the toys, and have them join you on the floor.

Play the "Bigger Than Big" theme song to get the children's attention, then **SAY: Welcome! I'm [your name], and I'm glad you're here. We're going to have a great time today! We're going to learn about a baby named Moses. Baby Moses didn't know how to take care of himself yet. But God cared for Moses just as God cares for us. Let's sing our "Bigger Than Big" song together, and then we'll get started.** Play track 1, and encourage the children to sing along.

Big, Big BiBLE BLAST



Saving Baby Moses

Supplies: Bible, CD player, adult volunteer, paper crown, doll, basket, copy of "Baby Moses" script, lamp, white sheet, tape

Before the Bible story, make sure that the CD player is set up nearby. Open your Bible to Exodus 1, and show the children the words—it's important for children to understand that the Bible story is true and that it comes from God's Word.


SAY: God cares for us. In the Bible, there's a true story about how God cared for baby Moses. We're going to have fun telling our story today. We're going to pretend we're in a special theater where shadows help tell the story.

Choose several children to be the shadow characters for the Bible story. Have them go behind the curtain with your adult volunteer. Give Pharaoh the paper crown to wear. They'll face the audience and stand in front of the lamp to create their shadows. (There should be about eight feet between the back of the curtain and the lamp for safety and proper shadows.) Give an adult volunteer a script to follow along so they can help the children behind the screen.

ASK: • Have you ever been someplace all alone? How did you feel?

- Who came to get you? How did you feel then?

SAY: Our Bible story today is about a little baby who was hidden in a basket. Let's find out who comes to get him out. For our story, you'll all be the stars of the show. Some of our stars will act out the story behind this movie screen.

And I have a special job for all of you stars in the audience. Every time you hear the word "baby," pretend to rock a baby in your arms. Demonstrate how to rock a baby. You'll tell your pretend baby,  "God cares for us." Practice this a few times before beginning the "Baby Moses" segment of the CD. (You'll find the script for this segment below.)

As the story progresses, cue children both behind the screen and in the audience to act out their roles.

SAY: It's time to start our Bible story...starring baby Moses and you!

BABY MOSES

Narrator: Far, far away, in a land called Egypt, there lived a mean king named Pharaoh. He *hated* God's people, the Israelites.

Cue Pharaoh to turn and face the center of the curtain and flex his strong arms, then leave.

Narrator: One day Pharaoh saw that there were so many of God's people that he couldn't even count them.

Have several children walk slowly behind the curtain to the other end so the children can try to count them.

Narrator: Children, can you count God's people?

Narrator: Pharaoh wanted to make sure he would be king forever, so he made all God's people slaves! He made them work hard to build the biggest kingdom ever.

Cue Pharaoh to walk behind the curtain, face the center of the curtain and flex his strong arms during the narration, then leave.

Narrator: Then he took all the little baby boys (*lead children in rocking pretend babies*) away from their mothers, so they couldn't grow up and take his kingdom. Jochebed, was a kind woman who loved God. She had just had a little baby boy (*lead children in rocking pretend babies*), but she was afraid Pharaoh would take her little boy away.

Have Moses' mother carry a doll, put the doll in a basket, and hold up praying hands.

Narrator: Finally, Jochebed knew she couldn't hide her little baby (*lead children in rocking pretend*

babies) anymore, so she got a strong basket to put him in. She wrapped him up tight, put his favorite blanket inside, and gave him a big kiss. She prayed that God would keep him safe, then she hid the basket in the bushes of the riverbank.


Have Moses' mother put the baby in the basket and leave.

Narrator: The baby's sister, Miriam, hid in the bushes and prayed that God would keep her little brother safe. As she watched the little basket float down the river, Miriam knew God cared for her little brother.

Cue Miriam to hold her hand above her eyes and watch the basket as it's slowly pulled across the screen. (Have an adult volunteer pull the basket.)

Narrator: All of a sudden the Pharaoh's own daughter—the princess—came walking beside the river! She found the basket with the baby inside. *(Lead children in rocking pretend babies.)*

Have the princess push the basket back behind the screen so it can be seen, lift baby Moses out of the basket, and give him a big hug.



Narrator: But God was watching over baby Moses. *(Lead children in rocking pretend babies.)* The princess, the Pharaoh's daughter, fell in love with the little baby! *(Lead children in rocking pretend babies.)* She kept him safe and even let his own mother take care of him! God cared for Moses and his family and  God cares for you, too.

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Have your actors come out from behind the screen. Lead everyone in a round of applause for everyone's participation. Then have kids form pairs to answer the following questions. After each question, invite a few volunteers to share their answers.

ASK: • How do you think Miriam felt when she watched her little baby brother in the basket?

- How would you feel if you had to leave someone in your family?
- What can you do the next time you feel afraid?

SAY: Miriam may have been afraid but she knew that God would care for baby Moses. God cared for Moses and kept him safe.  God cares for us, too. Whenever you feel afraid or need help, you can remember that God is watching over you because  God cares for you.

Lead kids in a round of applause. Teach children this chant that can be repeated frequently.

One, two, three *(hold up fingers in order),*
God cares for me! *(Point up, hug yourself then point to self.)*


SAY: Let's discover more about how  God cares for us. Move to the discovery stations you have set up.

Big, Big Discovery Stations

OPTION ONE: **Block River**

Supplies: blocks, dolls or stuffed animals, baskets, doll blankets or baby blankets

Have children use blocks to create a winding river. Then, let children wrap baby dolls in blankets and set the dolls in baskets in the river.

Encourage children to act out the Bible story. Remind them that God cared for baby Moses and made sure he was safe. Say that  God cares for us, too.



OPTION TWO: **“Dough” You Care for Me?**

Supplies  : modeling dough

Set out modeling dough and allow children to mold figures of people who they care for and people who care for them. Children might think of parents, grandparents, day care providers, Sunday school teachers, and neighbors. Talk about how soft the dough is and how gently we touch people when we care for them. You may want to have children make their handprints in the dough, then point out that we are all safe in God's hands. (Use this recipe for our No-Cook Oily Dough. Children will love the sweet scent!)

No-Cook Oily Dough

3 cups flour

1 cup salt

½ cup oil

1 cup warm water


1 package of unsweetened powdered drink mix (any flavor)


Mix the dry ingredients in a large bowl and set aside. In a separate bowl, stir together the powdered drink mix and the warm water, then add the oil. Add this liquid mixture to the dry ingredients. Knead until smooth (add more water if too stiff; add more flour if too sticky). Stores well in a one-gallon resealable plastic bag for two to three weeks. Makes enough for about 8 children.

SAY: Let's make a fun snack to remind us that  God cares for us!

Big, Big Snacks

Moses in a Basket

Supplies  : chow mein noodles, chocolate frosting, baby carrots, fruit leather squares, non-stick spray, small paper plates, pitcher of water, cups, napkins, wet wipes


Have children wash their hands. Then lightly spray kids' hands with the non-stick spray. **SAY:**  God cares for us, just as he cared for baby Moses. This snack will help us remember the Bible story. Give each child a small paper plate. Lead the children in making baskets. Give each child about ¼ cup of chow mein noodles and a tablespoon of chocolate frosting. Let them use the frosting to glue the noodles into a basket shape. Don't worry about having them weave the noodles, just let



them have fun forming basket shapes. Then give each child one baby carrot and a square of fruit leather. Let children wrap the carrot in the fruit leather so it looks like a baby in a blanket.

Ask a child to say a simple prayer of thanksgiving for the snack. Then give each child a cup half filled with water. Keep a supply of wet wipes handy for kids to clean their hands and paper towels to wipe up any spills.

As they enjoy their snacks, talk with the preschoolers about how God cares for them when they're at home, in the car, at church, and all the other places they go. When the children have finished their snacks, have them throw away their cups and other trash.

SAY:  **God cares for us. Let's play some fun games to remind us of how God cared for Moses and how he cares for us, too.**

Big, Big GAMES


OPTION ONE: ***Caring for Moses***

Supplies: *masking tape, basket, baby doll wrapped in a blanket*

Make a squiggly line of masking tape across an open area of your classroom. Have all but two children stand on one side of the squiggly line, spread arm's length apart. Tell these children that they are the reeds growing in the river. Have one of the two children be a crocodile; demonstrate how to open and close your arms in front of you like a hungry crocodile. Set the basket on the floor, and have the second child push the basket around and through the reeds to keep it safe from the crocodile. Let each child have a turn pushing the basket or being the crocodile. Talk about how God took care of baby Moses by keeping his basket safe in the reeds.


ASK: • **How did it feel to be chased by a crocodile in our game?**

- **When are times you're afraid in real life?**
- **How can God help you when you're afraid?**

SAY: **God took care of baby Moses, and God takes care of us.**  **God cares for us all the time, no matter where we are or what we're doing.**

OPTION TWO: ***Where's Moses?***

Supplies: *baby doll wrapped in a blanket*

Play Hide and Seek with a twist. While the children hide their eyes, let one child hide baby Moses. Then let the rest of the children try to find baby Moses. Whoever finds baby Moses gets a chance to hide the baby for the others. Play until everyone has had a turn to hide baby Moses. Talk about how God cared for the real baby Moses and how  God cares for us.

SAY: Let's pray and thank  God for caring for us.

BIG, BIG PRAYERS

Supplies: none

Have children gather around you and repeat this prayer, helping them to do the motions.

God takes care of me when I'm small. (*Squat down and hug your knees.*)

God takes care of me when I'm tall. (*Stand up tall and reach for the ceiling.*)


God takes care of me, day and night. (*Make praying hands by your face, as if sleeping.*)

Thanks, God, for keeping me in your sight! (*Cup hands like binoculars.*)

SAY: Now it's time to sing some songs to our big, big God!

BIG, BIG SONGS

Supplies: CD player

SAY: Let's sing some songs together to remind us that  God cares for us! Lead children in singing one or more of the following songs.



God Cared for Moses

Sing to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." The instrumental version of the song is on track 3 of the CD.

Moses floated down the Nile. (*Cup hands and rock them.*)

His sister watched him all the while. (*Shade hands over eyes and peer around.*)

The princess saw the baby, too. (*Rock arms.*)

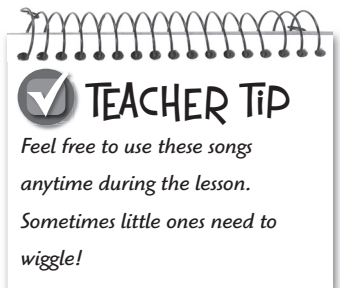
God cared for Moses; he cares for you. (*Point up, then point to others.*)

God cared for Moses. (*Rock arms.*)

God cared for Moses. (*Rock arms.*)

God cared for Moses. (*Rock arms.*)


God cares for you and me! (*Point to others and then to self.*)





Trust in the Lord (PROVERBS 3:5-6)

Sing “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) along with the CD, track 4. You’ll find the lyrics on page 102.

Thank kids for singing with you, and for coming to class today. As kids leave, say  **God cares for us**, as you give them high fives.



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