



**Growing
in
CHRIST®**

Early Childhood Teacher Guide

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**God Protects His People
in Egypt and the Exodus**

OLD TESTAMENT 2

Preparing the Lesson

The Birth of Moses

Exodus 1:1–2:10

Date of Use

Key Point

Through Moses, the Lord saved His people from slavery in Egypt. Through Christ, God saves all people from the bondage of sin and death.

Law/Gospel

In this world, I am enslaved by the demands of Satan. **God's Son, Jesus, was born to set me free from the slavery of sin, death, and the devil.**

Context

God declared to Abraham that his descendants would “be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years” (Genesis 15:13).

Since Joseph had saved Egypt from famine, four hundred years of bondage to Egypt proved to be God's true prophetic Word for His people. The birth of Moses is the beginning of the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham that afterward, Israel would “come out with great possessions” (Genesis 15:14).

Commentary

“I'm beat!” We all utter this expression from time to time. It is a simple way to say we are tired, busy, and overwhelmed by the forces of this fallen world and our own sinful flesh. Without relief, we easily become consumed by worry. Our despair at bitter tasks can lead us to unbelief.

Israel was “beat.” By the time of Moses' birth, the fruition of God's dire prediction of four hundred years of servitude is evident. God's promise to Abraham of relief must have seemed small and remote compared with the sore backs and calloused hands that bricks, mortar, and forced labor produced. Pharaoh's decree to have all of the sons of Israel killed at birth must have left Israel debilitated in their despair.

Into this world of pessimism, God delivers a son from the house of Levi. Through divine guidance, the midwives defy the death command, and the baby floats downriver to become a son of the household of Pharaoh himself. In this child, the Lord has now provided for His people hope of salvation from their servitude.

Likewise, God declares, “Out of Egypt I called My Son” (Matthew 2:15). In spite of a similar death sentence from Herod, a Hebrew maidservant delivered the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Under the watchful eyes of this new Miriam, Jesus would sail into the hands of the house of pharaoh, the devil himself, where He would suffer the bitterest toil for us. On His back, He would carry the rigors of our servitude to sin all the way to Golgotha. Our Savior would rescue more than the Hebrews. He would free all nations from the bitter toil of our sins and leave the world “beat.”

In His Word, Christ breathes healing back into our sin-enslaved souls. In His Word, He proclaims to us, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). May we continue to hear the voice of our new and better Moses, the sweet Word of our gentle and lowly Servant, who gives rest for our weary souls.

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.

Lesson 5

The Birth of Moses

Exodus 1:1–2:10

Connections

Bible Words

[God] cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Faith Word

Save

Hymn

Lord Jesus, Think on Me
(LSB 610; CD 1)

Catechism

Apostles' Creed:
First and Second Articles

Take-Home Promise

God cares for me.

1 Opening (15 minutes)

Welcome Time

What you do: Before class, set up two activity areas. In one, put out copies of Activity Page 5 and crayons or markers. Make copies of Activity Page Fun (below and on CD) for parents or classroom helpers.

In the other activity area, set a tub of rice on a towel. (The towel will catch rice spills, making for easier cleanup.) Hide objects in the rice for the children to discover. Alternately, set out baby dolls and baby care items such as bottles, blankets, bath items, toy dishes, spoons, and bibs.

Play the CD from your Teacher Tools. Greet each child at eye level. Set out a variety of baby pictures, or create a short video of babies sleeping, eating, crying, being played with, and the like. Show this as children enter.

Say Hi, [Nicholas]. Good to see you! Today, we're going to hear about a special baby in the Bible. I wonder . . . what can babies do by themselves? What do they need someone to do for them?

Let children share; then, help them get involved in an activity. Encourage parents or caregivers to stay and do the welcome activity with their child.

Activity Page Fun Get a copy of Activity Page 5. Show it to your child. Have your child circle the things we use to care for a baby, and then color the page.

Say In our Bible story today, you will hear about how God took care of a very special baby named Moses. Listen, so you can tell me about it later.

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MATERIALS NEEDED

1 Opening

Teacher Tools

Attendance chart
CD

Student Pack

Attendance sticker

Other Supplies

Activity Page 5 (TG)
Tub of rice with hidden objects & towel, or dolls & baby-care items
Resource Page 1 (TG)

2 God Speaks

Teacher Tools

Storytelling Figures 5-1 to 5-7
Background B

Student Pack

Lesson Leaflet 5 & sticker

Other Supplies

Baskets
Pan of water, play dough & craft sticks; cup; green chenille stems or yarn (optional)
Tiny Baby Moses Arch Book (optional)

3 We Live

Teacher Tools

Storytelling Figures 5-3 & 5-5
Poster C

Student Pack

Craft Page 5
Stickers

Other Supplies

Basket
Celery & toppings
Raffia or twine & fabric (optional)
Paper Plus supplies (optional)

4 Closing

Teacher Tools

CD

Student Pack

Take-home materials

Active Learning Encourage children to look for objects hiding in the rice. If you set out baby dolls and baby-care items, have the children pretend to care for the babies.

Say Today, you will hear how a family hid their baby in a basket on the river to save him from a bad ruler.

Use your classroom signal to let the children know it's time to clean up and gather for circle time. Sing a cleanup song (Resource Page 1).



Gathering in God's Name

What you do: Gather the children, and begin with this opening. To teach about the Church Year, use the materials in the Church Year Worship Kit (see the introduction for more information).

Sing "I Like to Be in Sunday School" (*LOSP*, p. 11; CD 14) or another opening song
Have the children say the Invocation and Amen with you. Tell them "Amen" is the special word they get to say at the end of prayers, hymns, and the like.

Begin In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Offering Have a child bring the offering basket forward. Sing an offering song.

Pray Dear God,* thank You for caring for us* and keeping us safe.* Thank You for sending Jesus* to be our Savior.* Help us to listen* and learn* more about You* in Sunday School today.* Amen.*

*Have children echo each phrase after you.

Celebrate Birthdays, Baptism birthdays, and special occasions

2 God Speaks (20 minutes)

Story Clue

What you do: Bring several different types of baskets to talk about. Show baskets one at a time and discuss their uses.

Ask What is this? What can you use this basket for? Accept responses. If we put this basket in water, will it sink or float? Accept answers.

Say In our Bible story today, a bad king wanted to hurt all the baby boys that belonged to God's people. But one baby's mother made a special basket for her baby. She used it to keep her baby safe. Let's listen to our Bible story and find out what happened.

Bible Story Time

What you do: Use Storytelling Figures 5-1 to 5-7 and Background B. For extra impact, fill a shallow pan with water to use as the river. Set the background behind the water. Attach your figures to craft sticks, and put them in play-dough bases. Place them near the water as you tell the story. Attach baby Moses to half a Styrofoam cup so he floats.

Option: Show the pictures and tell the story of Moses using the Arch Book *Tiny Baby Moses* (CPH, 59-1550).

Say Many years ago, God’s people, the Israelites, lived in a country called Egypt. The ruler of the country was called a pharaoh. Pharaoh was a bad king. He made God’s people his slaves and was mean to them. He made them work extra hard. Pharaoh was afraid of God’s people because there were so many of them. So, he made a law that said, “Every baby boy that is born in an Israelite family should be killed.”

Ask Was this a good law?

Say No, it was a bad law! We should never hurt babies! But God loved His people. He had a special plan to save them. One day, He sent a special baby to one family. Show baby (1-1). God planned for this baby to grow up and save His people.

How happy the baby’s family was when he was born! His mother loved her baby boy very much. His father loved him. His big brother and big sister loved him! They did not want him to be hurt. They did not obey the bad law. Instead, the baby’s family hid him for three months so the bad king’s soldiers could not hurt him. But the baby kept growing and growing. Soon, he was too big and noisy to hide anymore!

God helped the baby’s mother think of a way to save her baby. First, she made a basket that would float on the water. Then, she put her baby inside the basket and covered him with some warm blankets. She hurried to the river and hid the basket in the tall grass near the edge of the water. Replace 5-1 with Moses in basket (5-2). Then, she told the baby’s big sister, Miriam, to hide near the baby and make sure he was safe. Add figure 5-3.

Soon, Miriam heard some footsteps! Oh, no. Who was coming? Would God keep her baby brother safe? Then, Miriam saw a princess walking toward the river with her servants. Add servants (5-4) and princess (5-5). The princess was Pharaoh’s daughter. She was going to have a bath in the water. The princess saw the little basket in the grassy water and sent one of her servants to get it. Replace 5-4 with kneeling servant (5-6). When the princess uncovered the basket, there was the little baby boy. The princess took the baby out of his basket. Remove figures; add princess holding baby (5-6).

“Oh! He’s so sweet. He must be one of the Israelite babies,” she said. The princess knew about the law, but she didn’t want the baby to be hurt. She said, “I will keep this baby for myself. I will name him Moses because I took him out of the water. He will be my son.”

The baby’s sister, Miriam, heard what the princess said. Point to Miriam (5-3). She ran up and asked, “Would you like me to get an Israelite woman to take care of the baby for you?”

“Yes,” said the princess. So, Miriam ran home as fast as she could and brought her mother to the princess. Remove Miriam. Moses’ own mother got to take care of him for the princess.

Moses’ mother was happy. She loved her baby. She fed him and took good care of him. When he was older, she took him back to the princess. Then, Moses lived in the king’s palace until he was grown.

God loved Moses. He sent many people to care for Moses and keep him safe. He had a special job for Moses to do. God planned for Moses to

Key Point

In Moses, the Lord saved His people from slavery in Egypt.
In Christ, God saves all people from the bondage of sin and death.

grow up and help His people get away from mean Pharaoh. God wanted to keep His people safe so that many years later, His Son, Jesus, could be born. God loves you and cares for you too. He loves you so much that He sent Jesus to be your Savior.

Bible Story Review

What you do: Hand out Lesson Leaflet 5 and crayons. To provide a tactile element, supply green chenille stems or yarn and glue sticks. Draw children's attention to the leaflet picture.

Ask Who is the baby in the basket? Moses

Who are the other people? Miriam, the princess, and servants

How did God keep Moses safe? He worked through his mother, who made a basket to hide him in; through his sister, who watched over him in the river; and through the princess, who took him as her son.

How does God care for you? Accept answers.

Do the sidebar activity on the front of the leaflet. Give the children green chenille stems or yarn to glue to the reeds on side 2 for a three-dimensional look.

Have children stand up and pretend to rock a baby in their arms. Sing the following to the tune of "Rock-a-bye Baby."

Sing Rock-a-bye Moses in your safe spot.

God will protect you; He loves you a lot!

God's got a plan. We know He'll come through.

So don't be afraid; He'll watch over you.

Option: Give the children an opportunity to stretch by having them act out a family activity (e.g., sweeping the floor, washing dishes, folding clothes). Give each child a turn at being the leader. Talk about God's care for us through our families.

Bible Words

What you do: Have your Bible open to 1 Peter 5:7. You will also need the stickers that say "God cares for me!"

Say The Bible tells us "[God] cares for you." Today, we learned about Moses and how God cared for him. God loves you and cares for you too. I have a sticker for you today. It has a big heart that says "God cares for me!"

Ask What else do you see on the sticker? A cross

Say This heart and cross remind us of God's love and care. Our biggest trouble is our sin—the bad things we say and do. But God loves us. He took care of our sin trouble by sending Jesus to die on the cross for us. You can wear the sticker on your shirt to remind you that "[God] cares for you." Let's say our Bible Words rhyme with our Bible Words.

Say Here is the Bible God gave me.	Open hands like a book.
What does He tell me?	Point to self.
Let's look and see.	Shade hands with hand.
The Bible says:	Open hands like a book.
"[God] cares for you."	Point up, hug self, point to others.

3 We Live (20 minutes)

Use these activities to help the children grow in their understanding of what the Bible story means for their lives. Choose the ones that work best with your class.

Growing through God's Word

What you do: Cut apart the figures on Poster C. You will also need the story figures of Miriam (5-3) and the princess (5-7). Put them all in a basket with the figures of the princess, Miriam, and Moses' mother on top.

Say God loved baby Moses very much. How did God take care of him?

Remove figures from basket one at a time, and comment on each one.

Say God gave Moses a family to love and take care of him. Show mother. **How did Moses' mother care for Moses?** (She made a basket to keep him safe.) Show sister (5-3). **What did Moses' sister do for Moses?** (She watched over him when he was in the water.) Show princess (5-7). **How did God use the princess to care for Moses?** (She took Moses to be her son.)

God loves us and takes care of us too. One way He cares for us and keeps us safe is by giving us a family. Show the work man or another man figure. **Who is this? What are some ways daddies care for us?** Accept comments. Show grandma. **Who could this be? How do grandmas care for us? Who else is in your family? How do they care for you? God also gives us other people to care for us.**

One at a time, show the remaining figures (teacher, doctor, pastor, and policeman or work man) as you ask how God cares for us through each one. Finally, show the Jesus figure.

Say The very best way God cares for us is by giving us Jesus, our Savior! **Because Jesus came to die for us, God forgives our sins. Because of Jesus, God promises that He will always take care of us. That makes me feel thankful. Let's tell God how we feel.** Have children bow heads and fold hands as you pray.

Pray Dear God, thank You for saving me. Thank You for loving me and taking care of me. Help me to trust in You. Amen.

Craft Time

What you do: Hand out Craft Page 5 and the stickers from the Sticker Page.

Option: Supply strips of raffia or twine and small squares of fabric for a baby blanket.

Children will cut off the strip with baby, then color the water and the princess's clothes. Give them jewelry stickers for the princess. For a tactile component, give the children pieces of raffia or twine to glue to the basket and a fabric blanket for Moses.

As the children complete each piece, cut around baby Moses in his basket and the princess. Glue baby Moses on the arms of the princess so that she is holding the baby. To finish, tape the sides of the base so the princess will stand up.

Say God took care of Moses and kept him safe. Who is holding baby Moses?

Teacher Tip

Give the children glue sticks, or put a small amount of glue on plastic lids and have the children use small paintbrushes or cotton Q-tips to transfer the glue. For younger children and those who have fine-motor delays, put the glue on the project for them; have them add the raffia or twine.

How did God use the princess to take care of Moses? God gives us people to take care of us too. Who takes care of you? What do they do for you?

Paper Plus option: Make baby Moses dolls. You will need a white tube sock for each child, rubber bands or yarn, a permanent marker, cotton batting or fiberfill to stuff the socks, squares of fabric for baby blankets, and lunch-size paper bags.

Help the children draw smiling faces on the toe side of their sock. Fill the socks with batting or fiberfill, and close with rubber bands or tie with yarn. Have children select a fabric sample and wrap their baby Moses in the cloth. Cut the tops off the paper bags so that the bag is only about one-third as tall as the original height. Place baby Moses inside for an instant “basket.”

Snack Time

What you do: Serve celery filled with pressurized cheese or dates stuffed with flavored cream cheese. Talk about how the snack reminds you of Moses’ little basket.

Live It Out

Have children bring items (e.g., diapers, onesies, bibs, formula) to make baby-care baskets for a local crisis pregnancy center to give out to moms in need.



4 Closing (5 minutes)

Going Home

What you do: Gather children’s take-home items to hand out.

Sing “God Is So Good” (*LOSP*, p. 57; CD 8) or “Lord Jesus, Think on Me” (*LSB* 610; CD 1)



Say **God cared for baby Moses and kept him safe. God cares for us too. The very best way God cares for us is by sending Jesus to save us from our sins.**

Lead children in saying “God cares for me” after each line you say (adapted from *Fingers Tell the Story*, p. 81). Conclude with a prayer of thanks.

Say **In the morning, I wake up and say,**

Children: God cares for me.

God will be with me all through the day.

Children: God cares for me.

God gives me food, clothing, and friends.

Children: God cares for me.

His love for me will never end.

Children: God cares for me.

Reflection

Were the children able to talk about how God cares for them? In future weeks, how can you continue to make the connection for them between God caring for baby Moses and God caring for us by sending Jesus to be our Savior?

Circle and color all the things that we use to take care of babies.

