



**Growing  
in  
CHRIST®**

# **Upper Elementary 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

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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 cal-

loused 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](http://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

The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. Psalm 121:7–8 (CD 9)

#### Faith Words

faithful, bondage, evil, deliver

#### Hymn

I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus (LSB 729; CD 5)

#### Catechism

Apostles' Creed: First Article  
Lord's Prayer: Seventh Petition

#### Liturgy

Holy Baptism (CD 18, 19)

### Prepare to Teach

Prepare a large basket for today's lesson. Inside the basket, place the items listed below. A cloth or pillowcase may be tucked in over the top to conceal the contents of the basket.

- a Bible with a bookmark at Exodus 1:1–2:10
- Faith Word Cards 17–20 *faithful, bondage, evil, and deliver*
- Luther's Small Catechism with the explanation of the First Article and the Seventh Petition bookmarked. Print "He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil" and "But deliver us from evil" on two separate index cards.
- Bible Review Cards 33–40
- a small baby doll wrapped in a plain white cloth or blanket
- a paper chain (8–10 links)
- a small cross

## 1 Opening (10 minutes)

As students gather, engage them in singing the catechism songs and Bible Words songs from the CD that you have used thus far this quarter.

Welcome all students, especially any new students or visitors. Begin with the Invocation when all of the students have gathered. Invite the students to make the sign of the cross.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

1 Opening	2 God Speaks	3 We Live	4 Closing
<b>Teacher Tools</b> CD	<b>Teacher Tools</b> Faith Word Cards 17–20 Bible Review Cards 33–40 Poster A	<b>Teacher Tools</b> Faith Word Cards 17–20; Growing in Christ Puzzle 5; CD	<b>Teacher Tools</b> CD
<b>Other Supplies</b> Hymnals	<b>Student Pack</b> Bible Discovery Guides Lesson Leaflets	<b>Student Pack</b> Lesson Leaflets	<b>Other Supplies</b> Hymnals Reproducible Page 5 (TG) (optional)
	<b>Other Supplies</b> Large basket and items (see "Prepare to Teach")	<b>Other Supplies</b> Items from basket; photos of rescuers (optional); Resource Page 4 (TG) or Small Catechism	

**Say** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**Pray** Lord God, heavenly Father, we gather today to study Your Word. As we read today about how You were faithful to the Israelites and delivered them, help us to know that You are faithful to us and deliver us also. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Gather offerings, celebrate birthdays and Baptism anniversaries, and take attendance.

Play and sing "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus" (LSB 729; CD 5).



## 2 God Speaks (20 minutes)

Place the basket in front of the students. Tell them that the basket and its contents have something to do with the Bible story. Ask them to tell what this basket makes them think of. Answers will vary and may include ideas such as going on a picnic, traveling, gift baskets, and the like.

Remove the Faith Word Cards from the basket and explain *faithful* (reminding students of the opening prayer) and the other words. Lay the Faith Word Cards on the table. One by one, remove the other items from the basket. Ask a few students to read what is written on each index card as they are removed. With the students' help, place the items with a Faith Word Card with which it could be associated. There may be more than one placement for each item. Suggested associations include the following:

- paper chain (*bondage, evil*)
- baby doll and cross (*faithful, deliver*)
- Bible, catechism selections, and index cards (*faithful*)
- cross and Bible Review Cards (*faithful*)

If students are not sure, tell them they can rearrange them as they study the Bible account.

**Say** Let's read the story from God's inspired Word and see how all of these items relate. When you hear something in the story that connects to an object you see here, or to one of our Faith Words or to the Bible Words, raise your hand. We will talk about them then.

Before you begin reading, find the time period on Poster A, the timeline, and locate Egypt and the Nile River on the map on pages 8–9 in the Bible Discovery Guide. Ask students to find Exodus 1:1–2:10, the bookmarked passage, in their Bibles. Write the Bible references for the five sections of today's Bible story text on the board or a large piece of paper. Ask volunteers to read the text, verse by verse or section by section. If you wish, invite other students to act out the Bible account section by section as it is read. Involve lots of boys in chapter 1; chapter 2 is all girls. Use the first question on the Bible Review Cards as noted as you cover each passage. Ask the students to select items from the table that relate to each part of the text and explain their choices. Possible responses are given for the teacher. Accept other viable explanations or correlations from students.

**Passage** Exodus 1:1–7  
**Bible Review Cards** Question 1 on cards 33–34

### 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.

A Great Idea!

<b>Connection</b>	<i>faithful</i> , baby doll (God was faithful to His chosen people. Jacob's descendants had many babies, thus increasing in number greatly.)
<b>Passage</b>	<b>Exodus 1:8–14</b>
<b>Bible Review Cards</b>	Question 1 on cards 35–36
<b>Connection</b>	<i>bondage, evil</i> , paper chain (Pharaoh was afraid of the large number of Israelites, so he did an evil thing and placed them in bondage, making them slaves.)
<b>Passage</b>	<b>Exodus 1:15–22</b>
<b>Bible Review Cards</b>	Question 1 on card 37
<b>Connection</b>	<i>bondage, evil, faithful</i> , baby doll, paper chain, Bible Words, Seventh Petition (God, in His faithfulness, continued to bless the Israelites with children while they were in bondage. He delivered them from the evils of the Egyptians through God-fearing midwives.)
<b>Passage</b>	<b>Exodus 2:1–4</b>
<b>Bible Review Cards</b>	Question 1 on cards 38–39
<b>Connection</b>	<i>faithful, deliver</i> , baby doll, basket, Bible Words, Seventh Petition (Because God is faithful to His promises, He sent a baby who was born to deliver His people from their slavery. God protected the baby when his mother placed him in a basket and put him in the saving waters of the Nile River.)
<b>Passage</b>	<b>Exodus 2:5–7</b>
<b>Bible Review Cards</b>	Question 1 on card 40
<b>Connection</b>	<i>deliver, faithful</i> , baby doll, paper chain, Seventh Petition, Bible Words (God delivered baby Moses into the hands of Pharaoh's daughter so he could grow up to deliver God's people from the chains of slavery.)

**Summarize** God was faithful to His people, the Israelites. He protected them and fulfilled His promise to multiply Abraham's descendants into a great nation. They grew stronger and their families grew in number until the Egyptians were afraid of them. Even though the new king in Egypt meant to do evil to God's people, he could not do it because God was faithful to the Israelites and took care of them. After four hundred years in bondage, God heard the cries of His people in slavery and He sent a deliverer, Moses. God preserved the baby Moses, who would become an important servant of God and lead the Israelites to the Promised Land.

Either display the Bible story poster, if available, or distribute the Lesson Leaflets and give the students some time to examine the details of the biblical art. Point out the terrain, both in the background and the middle ground, the architecture of the Egyptian building, the felucca (boat) in the river, Miriam in the bulrushes, and especially baby Moses and the Egyptian princess.

### **3 We Live** (10 minutes)

#### **Salvation unto Us Has Come**

Challenge the students to choose an item on the table and explain how it relates the Bible story to our lives today, or use the following discussion to teach the main points of the lesson.

**Say** All of the items on the table can help us connect this Bible story from long ago to our lives today.

Begin with the paper chain. Ask students to find Faith Words on the table that correlate with the chain (*bondage, evil*).

**Ask** What does the paper chain mean for us? Students should be able to tell about the chains of sin that bind all of us. **It reminds us that we are enslaved, or in slavery, because of our sin. Just as the pharaoh sought to do evil to the Israelites, so the devil seeks to do evil to us and hold us in bondage. In this world, we are in bondage to sin. Our sinful flesh also tempts us to sin. By ourselves, we can never find rest.**

**Say** Evil is anything that directs our attention away from God. Satan sends all kinds of evil our way, hoping that we will fall away from God and not believe in Him.

Indicate the baby doll and cross. Ask students to find Faith Words on the table that correlate with these items (*faithful, deliver*).

**Ask** Of what other baby does the doll remind you? (Like Moses, Jesus was born to *deliver* His people from their slavery.) **What does the cross mean for us?** (God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to free us from the bondage of sin so that we might have rest for our enslaved souls.)

**Say** God promised a Savior to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden when sin entered creation. He gave the promise to Noah and to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Through Jacob's descendants, the Israelites, came God's own Son, who saved all people from the bondage of sin and death. God was *faithful* to this promise when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Indicate the index cards with the catechism. Direct the students' attention to page 2 of the Lesson Leaflet. Work through the activity, "LIDREVE SU?," revealing "But deliver us from evil." Read and discuss the explanation of the Seventh Petition that follows the unscrambled words.

**Say** God continues to deliver us from evil each day. He knows that we are tempted every day. We pray in the Seventh Petition of the Lord's Prayer for our Father in heaven to rescue us from the devil and all evil that has come into the world because of sin. We want God to keep us faithful to Him and, when we die, to take us from this sorrow-filled world to be with Him in heaven. Because God is faithful to us, He delivers us from temptation and frees us from the slavery of sin.

Read and discuss the index card with the excerpt from the meaning of the First Article. This is what we confess to be true about God the Father. In a world ruined by sin, the Lord keeps us from harm and helps us to endure the troubles that He allows to come into our lives.

**Say** Our Bible Words also remind us of God's faithfulness to us.

Distribute copies of Growing in Christ Puzzle 5 as an introduction to the Bible Words. When most students have completed the puzzle, read together the Bible Words. Explain each phrase of the verses.

- **The LORD will keep you from all evil;** (No matter what kind of evil it may be and from which side it may threaten)

### Teacher Tip

Kinesthetic learners (students who learn best by moving their bodies, activating their large or small muscles as they learn; "hands-on learners" or "doers" who actually concentrate better and learn more easily when movement is involved) may enjoy holding the baby doll and re-enacting the story by putting him in the basket in the Nile.

### Teacher Tip

Students with reading difficulties may experience frustration with the scrambled words activity. Help those students individually, pair them with strong readers, or work through the activity as a class.



- **He will keep your life.** (The believer’s spiritual life is his or her most precious possession.)
- **The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in** (The believer’s whole life, with all its occupations, vocations, and undertakings)
- **from this time forth and forevermore.** (In time and eternity; no danger can harm someone who rests in the eternal love of the heavenly Father and who relies on the merciful promises of His Word.)

**Ask** **What words do you see repeated three times in these verses?** (The Lord [He] will keep you [your life].)

Then introduce the Bible Words song found on the CD, track 9, to help students memorize the passage. Play and sing it a couple of times.

### Delivered!

**Ask** **Have any of you ever been rescued from a dangerous situation, such as a fire or drowning, or seen a rescue like that on television?**

Show photos of rescue heroes; if no photos are available, discuss with the students possible scenarios when rescue would be necessary. Allow them to share their experiences.

**Say** **God has rescued His people over and over again. There are some interesting parallels in the lives of Noah, Joseph, Moses, and Jesus. Inside your leaflet, there are two such parallels outlined with Bible references. Work with a partner to locate and read the Bible passages and identify the parallel events.**

Allow your students time to work through the two parallel rescues; if time is short, assign a pair of students to each passage or rescue. Invite volunteers to report on their findings and discuss. Here is a brief summary:

#### Rescue 1

- Genesis 7:6–7: On the waters of the great flood, Noah and his family were carried to safety in the ark.
- Exodus 2:2–9: On the water of the Nile, Moses floated in an “ark” of papyrus reeds (bulrushes) and was rescued by Pharaoh’s daughter.
- 1 Peter 3:21: In the water of Baptism, you and I are rescued from sin, death, and the devil through the Holy Spirit’s gift of faith in Christ.

You might also comment that in the ark of the Church, God’s Word is proclaimed and Christ’s Sacraments are administered for the salvation—the rescue—of many souls.

Review Martin Luther’s explanation of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in the Small Catechism or using copies of Resource Page 4. Point out that the rescue of Moses is a *type*, a foreshadowing, of our rescue through Baptism.

#### Rescue 2

- Genesis 45:4–7: In Egypt, Joseph and his family found safety from the famine.
- Exodus 1:22; 2:10: In Egypt, in the very household of Pharaoh, Moses found safety from Pharaoh’s proclamation of death to all Hebrew boys.
- Matthew 2:13–16: In Egypt, the child Jesus found safety with His parents from Herod’s rage against the male children of Bethlehem.

### 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.

**Say** God saved Moses from death by arranging for the king's daughter to find him and care for him as her own. God had a purpose for Moses. Through Moses, the Lord planned to save His people from slavery in Egypt. Our sinful flesh tempts us to sin, and on our own, we cannot find relief from its bondage. In Christ, God saves all people from the bondage of sin and death. God delivers us from temptation and grants us a heavenly, eternal rest from our sin and the sin of the world.

Indicate the basket.

**Ask** How could the basket relate to our lives today? Allow for responses.

**Say** Just as Moses was saved from death in the water of the Nile River, so we are saved from eternal death in the water of Baptism and through the Word of God. When we look at the baptismal font in church, we can think of Moses' basket. It was his little ark, which rescued him.

We are delivered from all evil because Jesus died to take away our sins and defeat Satan, once and for all. In Baptism, we receive faith that makes us His own children. Because we are God's children, He grants a heavenly, eternal rest from our sin and the sin of the world. We look forward to spending eternity in heaven with Him.

## God's Faithfulness

Using the Faith Word Card *faithful*, explore God's faithfulness further. Direct students to the activity at the bottom of page 2 in the Lesson Leaflet. Read the verses together and explain any unfamiliar words. Ask students to identify times from the text that we know God is faithful. (In answering prayers; in afflictions; His mercy never ends; He preserves His creation; and His unending and steadfast love) Invite the students to identify times like these in their lives. Challenge them to remember one or more of the Bible verses to share with a friend in a time of trial.

Faith in Action

## 4 Closing (10 minutes)

Have the students help you gather your materials back into the basket. Remind students of how faithful God was to His people by preserving Moses in a basket in the Nile River so that through him, God would save His people from slavery in Egypt. God still faithfully preserves us and all His people and frees us from the bondage of sin and death.

Play and sing again "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus" (LSB 729; CD 5).

**Pray** Dear heavenly Father, as we learn in Your Word, You are faithful to Your people and keep Your promises. You protect us from evil. Be with us each now as we go our separate ways, joyfully knowing that You are with us and will give us eternal rest because of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

As a blessing, invite all students to read together or recite the Bible Words.

*Note to teacher:* There are several options for using Reproducible Page 5. Use it in the "We Live" section to emphasize the key point of the lesson. It may be distributed in the "Closing." Or give it to students to take home.





# God Delivers Moses/God Delivers Me

God saved Moses' life so that he could deliver His people.

God saved Jesus' life so that He could deliver His people.

