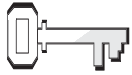


When the Crocodiles Missed Dinner



References

Exodus 1 and 2;
Patriarchs and Prophets,
pp. 241–251



Memory Verse

“Let everything
that has breath
praise the Lord”
(Psalm 150:6, NIV).

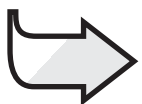


Objectives

The children will:
Know that God
is in control and
protects His children.

Feel happy that God is
with them at all times.

Respond by praising God
for being with them all the time.



The Message

We worship God
when we thank Him
for His protection.

Monthly Theme

We tell God we love Him when we worship Him.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God blesses the Israelites in Egypt. As they prosper, the Egyptians become afraid of the Israelites’ strength and force them into slavery. Satan works through Pharaoh to try to prevent Israel’s deliverer from growing up. Pharaoh orders that all male children are to be killed. Moses’ mother hides him for three months and then puts him in a basket in the river. The princess finds him and adopts him as her own son. The princess sends Moses’ sister, Miriam, to get someone to care for the baby. She gets her mother. Moses’ mother teaches him to worship God. When Moses goes to the court of Pharaoh, he refuses to bow to Egyptian Gods. Later, Moses kills an Egyptian overseer who is beating two Israelites, but then runs for his life.

This is a lesson about worship.

Jochebed’s prayers for protection of her son were answered. God was with Moses in the court of Pharaoh and helped him to resist temptation. Even though Moses ran away because he killed an Egyptian, God was with him and protected him.

Teacher Enrichment

“How far-reaching in its results was the influence of that one Hebrew woman, and she an exile and a slave! The whole future life of Moses, the great mission which he fulfilled as the leader of Israel, testifies to the importance of the work of the Christian mother. There is no other work that can equal this. To a very great extent the mother holds in her own hands the destiny of her children. She is dealing with developing minds and characters, working not alone for time, but for eternity. . . . Especially during their early years the responsibility rests upon her of forming the character of her children. . . . Parents should direct the instructions and training of their children while very young, to the end that they may be Christians. They are placed in our care to be trained, not as heirs to the throne of an earthly empire, but as kings unto God, to reign through unending ages” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 244).

Room Decorations

Make some bulletin boards showing Egyptian hieroglyphics and some of the wonders of ancient Egypt, such as temples and the pyramids. Add 10 circles with pictures of the 10 plagues. Create a throne room where Moses can meet Pharaoh. Use an outdoor scene for Baby Moses, Moses and the burning bush, and to illustrate the plagues. Hint: Look on the Internet or use an encyclopedia for data on hieroglyphics.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Daily Protection</i> B. <i>Protective Covering</i>	protective clothing, Bible, box newspaper, large sheet of cardboard or blanket or sheet
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> container small basket, slips of paper, pencils
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible-times costumes, throne, basket, baby doll none Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Bible Study Commitment</i>	black paper, white paper, pencils, glue, <i>Sing for Joy</i>
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>Fingerprint Family</i> B. <i>Guardian Angel</i>	paper, finger paints, pencils door hanger with angel shape (see p. 141), crayons/markers, scissors, Bibles

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- protective clothing (rubber glove, hat, umbrella, walking shoe, etc.)
- Bible
- box

A. Daily Protection

Put the clothing in a box. Put the Bible at the bottom of the box. One at a time, invite the children to pull something out of the box. Ask: **What do you use this for? What would happen if you did not have this?** Insert a situation when it would be dangerous or painful. Pull out the Bible last. **How can the Bible protect us?** (Gives us guidelines on how to live.)

Debriefing

Ask: **Can you think of other things we use every day to protect us? What is the most important protection we can have?** (The protection of reading the Bible. It will help us know what is right and wrong.) **In our story today we will hear how God helped a mother protect her baby boy. God still protects children today, and we want to thank Him for that. And that leads me to our message for today:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE THANK HIM FOR HIS PROTECTION.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- newspaper
- large sheet of cardboard or blanket or sheet

B. Protective Covering

Ask for a volunteer to be your helper. Give each child a sheet of newspaper and tell them to crumple it to make small balls. Say: **On the count of three I want you to throw all the paper balls at** [name volunteer]. Start to count to three. After two, have a helper say: **Excuse me. You forgot something.** Have the helper put the large sheet of cardboard (or other protective item) in front of the volunteer. Continue your count.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you think when I asked you to throw paper balls at** [name]? **How did you feel when** [name] **was protected by the cardboard? Can you think of things we use to protect us every day?** (Clothes protect us from heat and cold. Shoes protect our feet. An umbrella protects us from the rain.) **We use many protective things every day. In our lesson we are going to learn how God helped a mother protect her baby. God still protects children today. And that leads us to our message for today:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE THANK HIM FOR HIS PROTECTION.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "Come and Praise the Lord Our King" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 5)
- "Praise Him, Praise Him" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 12)
- "God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 13)
- "Come Into His Presence" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 14)
- "Philippians 4:4" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 23)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize worship in the story.



Offering

Say: **Our mission story helped us to learn more about the needs of** (the place that will receive the offering). **How can people there be helped?** (By sending missionaries with various abilities, etc.) **We don't have to wait until we are grown up to help. We can help now by giving our offerings.**

You Need:

- container



Prayer

Give each child paper and pencil. Have them write the name of someone for whom they want God's care and put the paper in the container. It may be a friend, someone in the family, or someone who is sick. Gather the children around the container for prayer. In your prayer give the children an opportunity to name their person. Close by thanking God for His protection and care.

You Need:

- small basket (or other container)
- slips of paper
- pencils

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- Bible-times costumes
- throne
- basket
- baby doll

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Pharaoh, Pharaoh's advisors/Princess's servants, Miriam, Princess, Amram, Jochebed, Aaron, Moses as a young man, two Israelites fighting

In a small Sabbath School have children take more than one part.

Setting the scene:

Say: **The Israelites have been in Egypt for almost 400 years. Even though they are Pharaoh's slaves, God is watching over them and protecting them. Let's listen in at Pharaoh's court and hear what he is planning.**

Read or tell the story.

Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, was afraid. *[Pharaoh sitting on throne looking worried and talking to advisors.]* The Israelites were growing in numbers. If they kept getting stronger, they might decide to rebel or take over the land. So Pharaoh and his advisors agreed to order all Israelite baby boys to be killed.

Jochebed and Amram were frightened and sad. *[Jochebed and Amram look around anxiously. Jochebed holds the baby doll.]* Jochebed had just had a baby boy. God had promised to send someone to lead his people from slavery. They did not want their baby to die. Maybe their little boy was that person.

For three months they managed to hide Baby Moses at home, but soon he began to make too much noise. *[Jochebed, Amram, Aaron, and Miriam try to hush the baby. They move around quietly.]*

The family prayed and asked God for help. *[Amram, Jochebed, Miriam, and Aaron kneel.]*

As they prayed, God gave them a plan. "We will put Moses in the river," said Jochebed. "We will put him in a basket covered with tar so it will float."

[Jochebed gets the basket and "paints" the outside.]

"I can stand nearby and make sure nothing happens to the basket," said Miriam, Moses' big sister. *[Miriam looks over Jochebed's shoulder.]*

[Jochebed prays; then carries Baby Moses to the river.] Jochebed carried her son to the river Nile in his basket. She put the basket into the water where the reeds grew so the basket could not float away. And every day Miriam watched the basket. *[Miriam stands a little way off watching the basket.]* Every day, many times a day, Jochebed prayed that God would protect Moses.

One day, Pharaoh's daughter came to the river to bathe. She saw the basket. *[Princess comes with attendants, points to basket.]* "What's that in the reeds?" she asked. "Please, bring it to me." *[Servant carries basket to princess.]*

The princess lifted the lid and Moses began to cry. *[Princess opens the basket, picks up the doll, and rocks it in her arms.]*

The princess smiled. "This is one of the Hebrew babies. He will not die like the rest. I will keep him and bring him up as my own son."

Miriam ran to the princess. She asked, "Would you like me to find a Hebrew woman to take care of him for you?" *[Miriam "speaks" to princess.]*

"Yes, please," said the princess. *[Miriam runs to Jochebed.]*

Miriam ran quickly and got her mother. *[Both mother and Miriam come running back.]* When Jochebed arrived, the princess said, "Please, take this child and take care of him for me. I will pay you."

They could keep their baby alive—

and be paid for it!

"This is a miracle," said Jochebed.

"A real miracle," said the baby's father, Amram. "God must have a plan for this baby. We will teach him about the God of heaven before he goes to live with the princess. Let's thank God right now." *[Family kneels in prayer.]*

The princess left Moses with his family until he was 12 years old. During those 12 years Jochebed and Amram taught Moses about God and about His people. And every day Moses' family thanked God for taking care of him in such a special way.

Finally the day came when Moses went to live in the palace. Court life was exciting. Moses learned many things, but he never forgot God. *[Princess shows young Moses around.]*

When Moses was 40, he went to visit the Israelite area. There he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite, and Moses became angry. He looked around to be sure no one saw him. Then he attacked and killed the Egyptian.

The next day Moses saw two Israelites fighting. When he told them to stop, they asked him if he was going to kill them too. Moses became afraid. If Pharaoh heard that he had killed an Egyptian, he would have Moses put to death. So Moses ran far away to the land of Midian. He would stay there for many years. *[Moses runs away.]* But God did not stop loving Moses. God protected him and watched over him all those years. God had a plan for Moses. And Moses would serve God in a very special way.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Why was Pharaoh afraid of the Israelites?

What would your family have done if they had heard that all baby boys were to be thrown into a river to drown?

What do you think went through Miriam's mind when she saw the princess? Why was Moses allowed to come home?

God took care of Moses, and He will take of you and me too. Let's thank Him for His care and protection when we pray. Remember our message:



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE THANK HIM FOR HIS PROTECTION.

Memory Verse

Use the following actions and repeat the memory verse until the children know it.

Let everything	Sweep arm in large arc.
that has breath	Point to mouth; blow out air.
praise the Lord.	Clap hands.
Psalms 150:6	Point upward.
	Palms together, then open.

Bible Study

Say: **God has promised to protect us. Let's read what the Bible says God will do for us.** Pair readers and nonreaders or have an adult help as needed. Have the children find each text, read it, then answer the question.

1. Psalm 32:7-11 What does God promise that He will do? (guide and teach us)
2. Psalm 40:11 What does God give us to protect us? (love and truth)
3. John 17:11 For whom did Jesus pray to His Father? (those coming after Him)

You Need:

- Bibles

4. Psalm 34:7 Who are they?
(You and me—His
followers.)
What does the
angel do? (stays
close to people and
protects them)

Debriefing

Allow discussion time as you ask:
What do all these verses have in common?

Yes, God wants to protect us, but we need to listen to His truth and guid-

ance. How can we do that? (Have regular Bible study and prayer time every day.)

Did you know that Jesus prayed that His Father would protect you even before you were born? What do you think about that?

Does it make a difference to know that God gives you special protection? That Jesus is willing to send His angels to watch over you? Let's say today's message together:



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE THANK HIM FOR HIS PROTECTION.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- black paper
- white paper
- pencils
- glue
- *Sing for Joy*

Bible Study Commitment

Ask: **In our Bible study time what did we learn about God's protection?**
Allow time for answers.

One way He protects us is through His Word, the Bible. The Bible gives us guidelines for living. What are some of the things that keep us from spending time with God? Allow discussion time.

Give each child a sheet of black paper and a slightly smaller sheet of white paper. Have them glue the two sheets together and then fold them in half to make a book. The black paper is the cover.

Say: **This is a Bible study record. If you want to spend time with Jesus every day, decide when is the best time and write at the top: I will spend time with Jesus every day from _____ to _____. Then sign your**

name. Every day this week record the time you spend with Jesus as you read the Bible and pray.

Debriefing

Ask: **Where is the best place in your house for you to have your time with God? What is the best time?**

Why do you want to read God's Word and pray?

Why does following God's guidelines in the Bible make sense? (God wants us to be healthy and happy. He loves us and only asks us to do things that will make us happy and keep us safe.)

Let's sing together "Whisper a Prayer" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 96). Then let's say our message for today:



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE THANK HIM FOR HIS PROTECTION.

Sharing the Lesson

A. Fingerprint Family

Say: **Today we are going to make a fingerprint family.**

Dip your finger in the paint and then press it on the paper. To make a person, press once for the head, once for the body and twice each for the legs and arms. When the paint has dried, add eyes, nose, and mouth with a pencil. Make your own family or an imaginary family.

You Need:

- paper
- finger paints
- pencils

Debriefing

Have the children show their “families.” Ask: **Why are families important?** (They help look after us.) **What are some of the things families do for us?** Allow discussion time. Emphasize that families should protect us.

In our story today a wicked king tried to kill Baby Moses, but God helped his mother and sister find a way to protect him. God still protects us today.

Take your fingerprint family home and show it to someone while you tell them how God protected Moses and how God still protects people today. Remember to say today’s message too. Today’s message is:



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE THANK HIM FOR HIS PROTECTION.

B. Guardian Angel

In advance, duplicate door hangers so you will have one for each child. (See page 141.) Have the children cut out the door hanger and write the text of Psalm 34:7 under the angel. Color or decorate the angel.

Divide the children into pairs and say: **Share with your partner things that you might be afraid of. Your partner may answer by reading God’s promise in Psalm 34:7. Then reverse roles. Tell your partner of a time when you felt that God protected you.**

Debriefing

Ask: **Would anyone like to share something that you are afraid of?**

Allow time.

How can we know God will be with us when we are afraid? (He has promised that He will be with us. God always keeps His promises.)

Ask for volunteers to share with the group a time when God protected them. Do not force anyone to share.

Say: **We can be very happy that God is with us no matter where we are. Take your door hanger home and share it with someone today. Tell them how God protected Baby Moses and that He protects you too. Let’s say our message together:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE THANK HIM FOR HIS PROTECTION.

Closing

Gather the children in a circle and ask God to continue to protect them during the days and week ahead.

You Need:

- door hanger with angel shape (see p. 141)
- crayons/markers
- scissors
- Bibles

When the Crocodiles Missed Dinner

References

Exodus 1 and 2;
Patriarchs and
Prophets,
pp. 241-251

Memory Verse

“Let everything that
has breath praise
the Lord” (Psalm
150:6, NIV).

The Message

We worship God
when we
thank Him for
His protection.

Have you ever found a really good hiding place when playing hide and seek? A place that no one else would think of looking? That was the kind of place that Moses’ mother was looking for.

Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, was afraid. “What can we do about these Israelites?” he asked his advisors. “There are too many of them, and they are so strong. They might even try to take over our country.”

It was finally agreed that Pharaoh should give an order. All Israelite baby boys should be killed. They would not grow up; they would die.

Jochebed and Amram were frightened. They did not want their baby to die! So they decided to hide him.

For three months they managed to hide Baby Moses at home. But soon he began to make too much noise. Jochebed was afraid that the soldiers would find him. “We will put Moses in the river,” said Jochebed. “We will put him in a basket covered with tar so it will float.”

“I will watch nearby,” said Miriam, Moses’ big sister. “I will make sure nothing happens to the basket.”

Jochebed carried her son to the river in his basket. She put the basket into the water where the reeds grew



so the basket couldn’t float away. And every day Miriam watched the little basket to be sure her brother was safe inside. Every day, many times a day, Jochebed prayed that God would protect Moses.

One day, Pharaoh’s daughter came to the river to bathe. She saw the basket. “What’s that in the reeds?” she asked her servants. “Please, bring it to me.”

Soon the basket was delivered to the princess. She lifted the lid and looked inside. And Baby Moses began to cry.

The princess smiled and said, “This is one of the Hebrew babies. I will not let him die like the rest. I will keep him and bring him up as my own son.”

Miriam heard. She hurried to the princess and asked, “Would you like me to find a Hebrew woman to take care of him for you?”

“Yes, please. That would be good,” said the princess.

Miriam ran quickly and got her mother. When Jochebed arrived, the princess smiled. “Please, take this child and take care of him for me,” she said. “I will pay you well. And I will send for him when he is older.”

Jochebed was so happy! They could keep their baby! And they would even be paid for taking care of him!

“This is a miracle!” declared Amram. “God must have a plan for this baby.”

“Yes,” Jochebed replied. “We will teach him everything we know about the God of heaven. He must know all before he goes to live with the princess.”

The princess left Moses with Jochebed until he was 12 years old. During those 12 years Amram and Jochebed taught Moses about God and about His people. But the day came when Moses had to move to the palace. Moses learned many things there, but he never forgot God.

When Moses was 40 years old he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite. He became so angry that he killed the

Egyptian. The next day Moses saw two Israelites fighting. He stepped between them and told them to stop. They turned to him and asked, "Will you kill us too?"

Moses became frightened. He had done a terrible thing. And Pharaoh might have him put to death because of it. So Moses ran away to the land of Midian. But even then, God was with him and protected him. God had a special work for Moses to do. Time in the wilderness of Midian would help prepare Moses for that work.

God watches over you too. Do you think He might have a plan for your life?

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, visit a family with a baby or small child and do something together.
- How do babies let you know they are hungry? Read Exodus 2:6. Do you think Moses might have been hungry?
- Ask God to bless the babies you know.

Sunday

- Read and discuss Exodus 2:1-10 with your family. How did Moses' mother make the basket water-tight?
- Find three things that you think will float and three that might sink. Fill a sink with water and test your idea.
- Draw a basket. Write your memory verse on it. Use it to teach the verse to your family.
- Ask God to continue to protect your family today.

Monday

- During worship, read and discuss Psalm 32:7-11 together. Who protects your family? Why? Ask someone to tell about a time God protected them.
- Miriam hid and watched Baby Moses. Play hide and seek with your family.
- Moses' family were slaves. Draw Pharaoh's palace and a house like one Moses' family lived in. In which would you like to live?
- Thank God for protecting your family.

Tuesday

- Read and discuss Exodus 2:11-15 during family worship. Make up a poem about how you think Moses felt as he ran away. How many Bible stories about God protecting His people can your family think of?
- Look on a map of Egypt and find the river Nile.

Find out about papyrus reeds that grew in that river. (Hint: See an encyclopedia.) Did any crocodiles live there?

- Ask God to protect your friends today.

Wednesday

- Read and discuss Acts 12:1-18 during family worship. Who prayed for Peter? How did God protect him?
- Moses had a brother and sister. Draw a heart in the middle of a piece of paper. Write *Jesus* in the middle of it. Draw smaller hearts around the big one, one for each person in your family. Draw a line from Jesus' heart to theirs. Does Jesus care about them? Is your family larger or smaller than Moses' family?
- Ask your mother for some kitchen foil. Fold it to make a basket boat. See if you can make a basket that will float.
- Pray for family and friends who do not know Jesus.

Thursday

- Read and discuss Exodus 2:1-10 during worship. How old was Moses when he was put in the basket? How many months are in a year? How old are you in months?
- Make a list of things a 3-month-old baby needs.
- If possible, help take care of a baby or a young child today. Ask God to help you to be a good example and to protect babies.

Friday

- During worship reread the story of Moses in Exodus 2:1-10. Act it out with your family. Say your memory verse together.
- Sing "Whisper a Prayer" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 96). Then ask God to bless you on His special day, the Sabbath.