

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: October 5, 2014

SUBJECT: THE TRAVELS OF THE CHOSEN CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: The Birth of Moses

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 1:1-22; 2:1-10; Acts 7:17-21; Hebrews 11:23

AIM: To inspire the children to have a healthy fear toward God by obeying Him and by caring for others.

MEMORY VERSES: Psa. 111:10a; 1 Pet. 2:17

SUGGESTED SONGS: #4606 More and Mightier; #2510 Four Hundred Years; #6715 The Midwives Feared Jehovah; #5212 Oh Lord! Care for My Brother; #2812 God is Watching Over You; #7605 We'll Call Him Moses

NEW WORDS: *Taskmaster:* someone who assigns and supervises work, especially in a demanding way. *Midwife:* someone who helps deliver babies. *Hebrews:* another name for the children of Israel.

BACKGROUND: Today we will begin a series of lessons which is called "The Travels of the Chosen Children of Israel." In the past few weeks, we have learned about the forefathers of the children of Israel, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel). God had promised Abraham that he would have many descendants (children) and that he would give the land of Canaan to his descendants. He began to fulfill His promise with the birth of Isaac. Isaac's son, Jacob, had twelve sons, one of whom was Joseph. After many hardships, Joseph became a great man in the land of Egypt. Eventually, because of a famine, Joseph brought the whole family to Egypt. They lived in Egypt for 430 years (Exo. 12:40), far away from the promised good land of Canaan. This coming year, we will see how God brought His chosen people out of Egypt and brought them into Canaan to fulfill His promise.

CONTENT: In time, Joseph died, as did all of his brothers and all of that generation. However, their descendants, the children of Israel, greatly increased, multiplied, and became very strong. The land was filled with them. Now, many years later there was a new king over Egypt (Pharaoh), one who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "The people of the children of Israel are now more numerous and stronger than we." He told them that they needed to be wise in dealing with them—they might join their enemies in a war against them and then leave Egypt.

So they set taskmasters over them to make them slaves and afflict them with hard labor. They forced them to build two storage cities for them: Pithom and Raamses. But the more they afflicted the children of Israel, the more they multiplied so that the Egyptians were in dread of them. The Egyptians made them work with harshness (with strictness, severity, difficulty) and they made their lives bitter with hard labor. They had to work with mortar and brick and in all kinds of labor in the fields.

The evil Pharaoh seemed determined to destroy them. So he told the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, that every time they helped the Hebrews to deliver a baby boy they should kill him. Only the baby girls could remain alive. (This way the people would stop multiplying.) But the midwives feared God. They did not do what the evil king commanded them, but let the boys live. So the king called for them and asked them why they let the boys live. The midwives told him, "The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous: before the midwife comes to them, they give birth." So the children of Israel kept multiplying and grew very strong. Because the midwives feared God, He rewarded them by establishing households for them. Then the wicked Pharaoh commanded all his people to throw every boy that was born to the Hebrews into the Nile River and save only the baby girls.

Now there was a man of the house of Levi, Amram, who had married a woman of the house of Levi, Jochebed (Exo. 6:20). They had two children, Miriam and Aaron. They then had a third child, a boy. When his mother saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. When she saw that she could no longer hide him, she got him a basket out of papyrus and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the baby in it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. The baby's sister, Miriam, stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Then the daughter of Pharaoh came to wash herself in the river with her maidens walking alongside the Nile. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent one of her maidens to bring it to her. She opened it and saw the baby and he was crying. She had compassion on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." Then Miriam came up to Pharaoh's daughter and said, "Shall I go call a nurse from the Hebrew women for you so that she may nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said, "Go." So Miriam went and got the baby's mother! Pharaoh's daughter told her to take the child and nurse him for her and she would pay her. Jochebed took the baby home and nursed him.

The child grew and his mother brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

This little baby would grow and one day be used by God to bring His people into the Promised Land!

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS:

1. To Fear God Means That We Are Careful Not To Offend Him By Doing Things That Are Wrong:

- When **the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah**, heard the king's evil command, the Bible says they **feared God**. They knew that if they obeyed Pharaoh to kill all the male babies, they would offend God very, very much. Therefore they defied the king's command, even at the risk of their lives. Because of this, the Lord blessed them.
- In the same way, **when we fear God**, He will protect us, bless us, and even reward us. We need to respect all authority, since it is God who places them over us. We should never argue or be rebellious with those in authority. Our attitude towards them should always be one of respect. **We should obey our conscience whenever it bothers us**. This is a very practical way for us to fear God. However, if a person in authority would ask us to lie, cheat, steal, or do something else that is wrong, we should not do it. It is best to talk to our parents or serving ones if we find ourselves in this kind of situation.
- If **another child** asks us to do something wrong, we should not do it even if we are teased and made fun of.

2. Fearing God By Taking Care Of Others:

- **Moses' parents** feared God and so they took steps to preserve his life.
- **Moses' sister** cared for her brother by watching over him to find out what would happen to him. She arranged for their mother to nurse Moses.
- **Pharaoh's daughter** had compassion on the little baby, and even offered to pay for the nurse's wages with her own money.
- **The Hebrew midwives** would not kill the male babies, but rather chose to help preserve their lives.
- When **we** care for our brothers and sisters, relatives, neighbors, or friends, by watching over them and helping them, **we** are fearing and honoring God.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ in God's Economy*—Vol. 4, *The Travels of the Chosen Children of Israel*, Lesson 1, and from the Church in New York City's Children's meeting lessons: 4/10/88; 9/24/95; 2/1/98; 2/8/98; 4/02/00; 9/28/03; 3/26/06; 10/11/09