

Trouble in Egypt (Part 1)

Done with her chores, Miriam rested her eyes in the shade of the family's hut as she waited for Father. But soon, voices from the dusty road forced her eyes back open.

"Terrible! So terrible!"

"What will we do?"

Past the hut plodded the men, returning from their day of slave labor for Pharaoh. Each man groaned and shook his head. Miriam had never seen them looking so miserable.

His garment soiled from a day spent making bricks, Father stepped from the crowd. "May God help us," he muttered to himself.

"Father! What happened?"

When he didn't reply, Miriam followed him into the hut.

Mother's face clouded. "Amram, what happened?"

"Pharaoh. It's bad enough he hates us Hebrews. Today he gave a new order: 'Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile River, but girl babies may live.'"

Mother's hands slid to her growing stomach. "But, what if my baby is a boy?"

Outside, a woman screamed.

Miriam hurried to the doorway. Egyptian soldiers came out of the neighbors' hut with a baby. "It's already started!"

Two soldiers pushed Miriam aside and entered without knocking. "Show us your babies!"

Father placed a hand on little Aaron's shoulder. "No babies here. Only children."

The soldiers glanced around, then hurried out the door.

Father said. "Let's pray God gives us a girl baby, and not a boy!"

* * * * *

On the night when Father realized the baby was coming, he sent Miriam running to fetch Shiphrah, the midwife.

When the baby was born, Shiphrah said, "I'm sorry. It's a boy."

Father shook his head. "Why, O God?"

Shiphrah stepped to the door. "I won't report that I delivered a child here." She disappeared into the darkness.

Later, Miriam kissed and cuddled her new baby brother under the glow of the oil lamp. "Now what happens?"

"We cannot throw him into the river," Father said. "We must do what is right in God's eyes."

Mother nodded. "We must hide him."

Father sat on the bed beside Mother. "Babies get hungry. They cry. If the Egyptians find out, we will be punished. But I believe God will somehow help us."

Mother looked from Miriam to Aaron. "Children, this is a family secret. Understand?"

Scared, but wanting to do right, Miriam nodded.

"Never even say the word baby," Father instructed. "If you must mention him, simply say, 'the blanket.' That will be our special word."

From that night onward, Mother never stepped outdoors unless Miriam was inside to bounce "the blanket" on her knee and keep him happy. However, when Miriam carried the bucket to the river for water, neighbor women watched her pass.



They suspect Mother had her baby, she thought.

Sometimes, however, "the blanket" wouldn't stay quiet. No matter what, he cried. During such moments, Miriam and Aaron would run outside and play loud games to drown out the noise.

Once, Miriam was outdoors and scrubbing a cooking pot for Mother. Just as three soldiers marched down the street with sharp, glinting spears, she heard baby-sized whimpering from their window. Alarmed, Miriam grabbed a wooden spoon and began banging the cooking pot while making up a silly song. The Egyptian soldiers glared at the noisy girl but did not stop. When they were gone, she stopped banging and wiped the sweat from her brow.

Whew! If they had come just a few seconds earlier, they would have caught us. Father said God will help us, but how long can we live like this?

continued next week

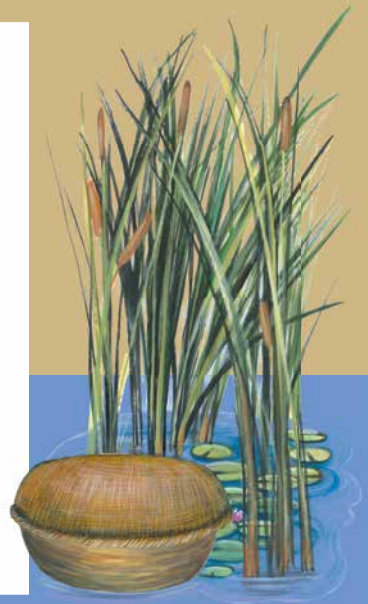
God Protects Moses

Start with the circled letter and end with the letter in the red square to connect all 64 letters of this puzzle into one continuous string of words.

Do not cross your line at any point. Your line may go in any direction—up, down, back, across—but it must contain all the words in the same order as in the list below.

Exodus 2:1–10 tells the whole story! Find the words in this order in the puzzle: **Pharaoh, home, child, son, nurse, pitch, mother, maid, daughter, bulrushes, river, hid.**

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|----------|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|
| P | H | A | R | U | G | E | R |
| D | L | I | A | A | H | T | B |
| S | E | C | H | O | D | L | U |
| O | M | O | H | H | D | R | U |
| N | I | T | C | I | I | H | S |
| N | P | M | H | A | D | R | H |
| U | E | O | E | M | V | E | E |
| R | S | T | H | R | I | R | S |



Draw a Dragonfly!

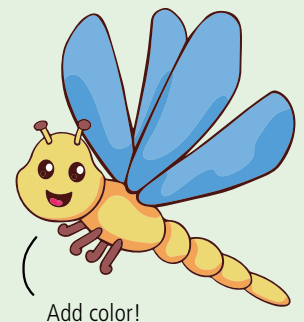


Draw the dragonfly using the grid.

Miriam might have seen one near the reeds where Moses' basket was left.

| | a | b | c | d | e |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | |

| | a | b | c | d | e |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | |
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Add color!

Joke Corner

Q: What beverage is always found in "EGYPT"?



A: Tea—as in the letter "T."

Measuring Growth

The Middler lesson for this week presented Pharaoh's evil plans to stop God's people from multiplying in Egypt. No matter what the ruler planned, God continued to grow His nation. God's sovereignty over all has not diminished today. We can trust Him and pray to Him with complete confidence. Talk with your child about the spiritual growth measurables for this week.

Measurables

Look for the following clues that your child has confidence in God as his or her sovereign Lord.

1. My child prays with confidence in God's ability to answer prayer.
2. My child does not worry about circumstances out of his or her control.
3. My child enjoys the peace that comes to those who make their requests known to God.

