

Baby Moses

SAFE

EXODUS 2:1-10

What's happening in this story?

After hiding Moses for three months, Moses' mother places him at the mercy of God by sending him down the Nile River in a basket made of papyrus reeds and pitch. He is eventually saved by another unnamed woman, Pharaoh's daughter. Moses' sister, who witnesses this event, offers Pharaoh's daughter a Hebrew wet nurse to take care of the baby and seeks out her own mother—the same mother who released Moses into the river—to be that nurse. It is Pharaoh's daughter who gives him the name Moses, derived from a Hebrew word meaning “to draw up,” just as the baby Moses is drawn up from the water.

What does this story mean for kids?

Kids might wonder why a mom is floating her baby down a river. Pharaoh has ordered all the baby boys in Egypt to be killed. While kids might not understand the details that frame the story, they know that most parents would do anything to protect their kids—even put them in a grassy boat and float them down the river into the arms of a stranger if it means saving their lives.

Why this theme?

For many teachers, parents, and other adults, keeping kids safe is a high priority. Moses ending up in a basket on the river, while drastic, is ultimately a matter of safety.

TEACHING TIP

~~This lesson uses scissors and requires a bit of dexterity.~~ Make sure your older group members are looking out for the younger ones, and offer support as needed so all kids can be successful.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Markers
- Paper
- Pens
- Scissors
- Tape
- Construction paper
- Glue sticks

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Balloons
- Tubs of water
- Aluminum foil
- Small, heavy items like pennies or marbles

WELCOME 15

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Provide paper and markers. Invite kids to draw pictures of people and things that keep them safe. Have kids share what they drew with each other.

Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

Think about something you might encounter that's dangerous, like a hot stove, or falling off your bike, or a severe thunderstorm. How would you stay safe? Who helps keep you safe in those situations? Give kids time to respond. **The Bible is full of stories where God's followers face different kinds of danger. In today's story we'll hear about how a mother tries to keep her baby safe from unexpected danger.**

Pray together: ~~Dear God, thank you for sending people and seatbelts and weather alerts and all the things that keep us safe! Please help us to always feel your presence. Amen.~~

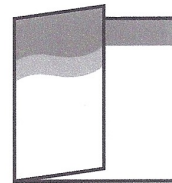
Be still and know that I am God...

~~Pass out leaflets and pens.~~

~~Invite younger kids to find an older buddy. There are different ways to be safe and keep things safe.~~

~~What's pictured on your leaflet? (A safe.) What are~~

~~safes used for? (To lock up valuable items, like money.) Sometimes locking something up is a good way to keep it safe, but that's not the only kind of safety. Think about other kinds of safety, or what being safe feels like, or times you knew you were safe. Using the letters S-A-F-E, work with your buddy to come up with one word that that starts with each letter to describe safety. Give kids time to work together. Older buddies can help younger kids write in the words on their leaflets, or younger kids can draw instead of writing. Invite pairs to share a couple of their words with the group. Collect their leaflets until Respond.~~



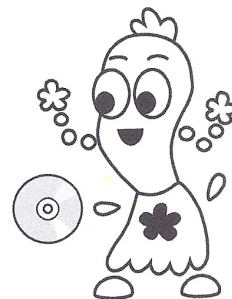
Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

We're going to meet Ada and Victor down by the river! Victor is doing an interesting version of house cleaning.

View Episode 2, "Grace Basket," on the Year Blue Fall DVD. (4 min, 30 sec)

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- What do you do with your things when you don't want them anymore?
- What have you had to give up that you *didn't* want to?
- How was Victor confused about why Moses' mom put Moses in the river?
- What specifically made Victor feel sad during this video?
- What difficult thing have you done for someone you love?



HEAR 15

use Whirl Kids Story Bible, page 46-49 Baby Moses

Open your Whirl Kids Story Bibles and Whirl Kids Study Bibles:

Have younger kids find an older buddy. Invite them to find Exodus 2:1-10 on page 67 of the Whirl Kids Study Bible. **It was a difficult time for Moses' family—their people were living as slaves in the land of Egypt, and baby boys were being taken from their families by Pharaoh. Moses' mom knew she had to come up with a plan to protect her son.**

~~Invite your older kids to take turns reading verses, while prompting your youngest kids to act like baby Moses throughout the story—sitting up at first, lying on their backs when placed in the river, sitting up again when found, and then standing when verse 10 says, "When the child grew up..."~~ **Moses' family and Pharaoh's daughter all worked together, with the help of God, to keep Moses safe.**

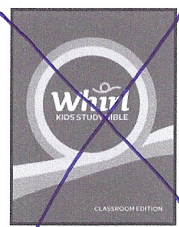
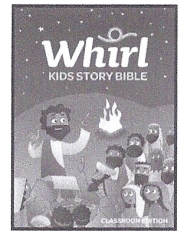
~~Read what Gabe says about Exodus 2:1-10 on page 67. Then read Ada and Otto's questions and comments on pages 46 and 49 of the Whirl Kids Story Bible.~~

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- How did Moses' mom try to keep Moses alive?
- What emotions do you think she felt as she did that?
- How did Moses' sister find a way to take good care of him?
- What role did the pharaoh's daughter play in this story?
- What words would you use to describe Moses' mom's actions?

Play together!

~~Moses' mom knew how to make a secure basket out of papyrus that would float in the river and protect her son. We're going to make floating baskets of our own.~~ Split kids into groups of three or four. Provide each group with aluminum foil and small, heavy items like pennies or marbles. Invite groups to work together to make a basket, including a bottom and top, out of aluminum foil. Have some tubs of water available for testing the baskets. Invite kids to float their boats in the water and place objects inside to see if and when their boat will sink. If you have time, come together as a group to see which basket can hold the greatest number of small objects before sinking.



BIBLE BIT

This Bible story, along with others, omits women's names. We often see the names of men in scripture, but it is just as common to see women making a difference in these stories.

WATCH IT AGAIN

If you watch the video again, pay attention to how Ada makes sense of Moses' mom's plan.

OUR CHURCH

Water is a common thing in Bible stories about hope, redemption, and God's presence. Talk with kids about how baptism is practiced in your church.

RESPOND 10

Return to drawing activity (drawing people or things that help keep you safe) and have children share what they drew.

Pass out leaflets, scissors, tape, balloons, and markers.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. We're each going to make a balloon baby Moses, secure them in leaflet baskets, and try to keep them safe from touching the floor.
2. Invite younger kids to find an older buddy. **Blow up your balloon.** Older kids can help younger kids inflate and tie off their balloons.
3. Use a marker to draw details on your balloon Moses. Give him a face and arms—maybe even some feet!
4. Using scissors, cut the basket strip from the back flap of your leaflet. Place your balloon Moses on the Family Square side of your leaflet. Then place the strip on top of the balloon and use tape to attach it as a handle to the purple rectangles on the top and bottom of the Respond square so that Moses is securely snug in your leaflet basket.
5. Using one of your baby Moses baskets, bop him back and forth through the air, trying to keep him safe from touching the ground.
6. As buddy pairs master keeping one baby Moses in the air, invite them to add the second one. If that's easy, have them pair up with another buddy group and try to keep three or even four baby Moses baskets in the air.
7. Keeping balloon baby Moses safe from touching the ground might seem easy. But Moses' mom and God worked hard to keep baby Moses safe from Pharaoh. I wonder what God has in store for Moses next.

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

We can try to be safe all the time, but when things are beyond our control, it's good to know that adults care for us and that God loves us. Moses had his sister, his mother, and Pharaoh's daughter work together to help him grow safely into an adult. Who's on your team?

Pass out leaflet panels, scissors, construction paper, and glue sticks.

~~Cut or tear the construction paper into shapes and glue them to the leaflet to make a picture for a woman who helps keep you safe. You can give her your creation later and thank her for that!~~

Send kids out with a blessing. → Help + Thanks prayers. Focus on thanking people/things that keep you safe.

~~Circle up with kids. God blesses all of us. And that means me (place a hand on your chest). And that means you (place your other hand on the shoulder of the kid next to you). Each kid passes the blessing by repeating those words and actions. When the blessing makes it back to you, say, Go and bless the world.~~

Thank kids for coming today. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.