

Baby Moses

Introduction

Discuss caring for babies and keeping them safe from harm (no sharp things, etc): Use dolls to do this. If you can borrow a 'Moses basket' that is even better. Explain that today's story is about a family who cared for their baby and kept their baby safe from an evil king's soldiers.

Core material

You may want to use the biblical material here or after the shoebox story. Pupils can talk about how the two stories relate.

Biblical material: Exodus 2:1-10 (adapted)

The people were miserable. They were slaves and the king hated them and worked them very hard. In one house, however, there was happiness. A baby had been born, a little boy whom they all loved. The family kept him hidden inside the house for the evil king's soldiers were searching everywhere.

The mother made a basket and made it waterproof so that it was like a little boat. She took it down to the river and hid it in the tall grass by the edge of the river. The baby's sister, Miriam, stood by watching. She kept guard over the basket for they loved the little baby and felt he was very special.

As Miriam watched, a princess came to the river to wash. As she washed she heard the baby cry.

She went over to the grass and found the baby and felt sorry for him. She wanted to look after him. Miriam thought quickly, what could she do? Miriam went to the princess, 'I know someone who could help you look after the baby,' she said. 'Shall I bring her to you?'

'Yes,' replied the princess, 'bring her straight away.'

Miriam brought her mother to the princess and the baby was returned to the family so they were happy once more. When he was older he went to live at the palace. The princess adopted him and called him Moses. God had a special job for Moses. One day he would help his people, he would free them from slavery, but that is another story.





The shoebox story of Baby

Moses

You will need

- A shoebox covered in blue paper and tied with a blue ribbon
- Yellow cloth or sheet of paper (crepe paper works well)
- 5 people: princess, mother, father, sister, baby (Duplo, Playpeople)
- A wide blue ribbon
- Crumbled green tissue for tall grass
- Small card box (open) for basket
- Script for the story

Opening the box

Ask pupils to guess what sort of story might be in the shoe box. A pupil can undo the ribbon.

The teacher takes out the items one at a time in response to the pupils' question 'What's in the box?'

As they are taken out the items are laid ready for storytelling.

PUPILS

'What's in the box?'

'What's in the box?'

'What's in the box?'

'What's in the box?'

'What's in the box?'

'What's in the box?'

'What's in the box?'

TEACHER

There is yellow in the box, the colour of sand and sun.

There is a river in the box, deep and wide.

There is tall grass in the box that grows by the river.

There is a family in the box: mother, father, sister, baby.

There is a basket in the box that hides a baby.

There is a princess in the box.

There is a story in the box.

Place the cloth/paper as indicated in the scripts and add the items as the story unfolds. Pupils can join in actions and sounds as appropriate.

The story script

Our story takes place on a yellow cloth,
in a land where the sun is burning hot
and the sands are soft.

Place cloth

A river flows through the land:
a deep river,
a wide river.

Smooth cloth

Place river

Run finger down it

Fish swim in its waters.

Palms together and wiggle

Tall grass grows on its edges –
giving a place for birds to nest.

Place grass

Cross wrists to make 'wings'

A sound is heard,

A baby's cry!

Place baby on cloth away from river

'Shh,' says the mother.

Finger to lips. Place mother

'Shh,' says the father.

Finger to lips. Place father

'Shh,' says the sister.

Finger to lips. Place sister

'Shh little baby, the soldiers are near.'

In the quiet of the evening
the mother pours her heart out to God,
who is listening.

Sign for God (one finger points up)

She carefully weaves a basket

Place basket on cloth

She weaves love and hope into it
and all her prayers for her baby.

She lays her baby in the basket
and hides him in the grass by the river.

Place baby in basket

Place basket in grass

'Shh little baby, make no noise,
the soldiers might hear.'

Finger to lips

By the edge of the river the sister watches.

Place sister near baby

She listens for the soldiers.

Carefully she guards the basket.

'Shh little brother, shh,
the soldiers must not find you.'

Finger to lips

Footsteps tread the soft sand as a princess
walks to the water.

Make footsteps sounds with hands on the cloth

She stoops to wash
but hears a cry.

Place princess on edge of river

In the grass by the water's edge
she finds the basket.

Move princess to basket

She sees the baby lying there.

'Shh little baby, shh

You are safe with me.'

Quickly the sister runs forward.

'I know someone who can help you care for him, she says.

Running, she takes her mother to the princess.

'Shh little baby, shh:

your mother is here,

your sister is here,

the princess is here,

God is here,

you are safe.'

Finger on lips

Move sister

Move sister to the mother

Move both to the Princess

Finger to lips

Lift and replace mother

Lift and replace sister

Lift and replace princess

Conversation

- Who is sad in this story? Why?
- Who is happy in this story? Why?
- How do the family show their care for the baby?
- I wonder what the mother said to God?



Select from the following activities:

1. Explore the Bible phrase

Explore the phrase from the Bible 'To pour your heart out' (Psalm 62:8). It's about being able to tell someone all your secrets, feelings, thoughts and worries. In the story, Moses' mother pours her heart out to God. Christians believe God always listens and takes people seriously. Pupils can think about people they can 'pour their heart out' to and the qualities they would look for in a person who they could do this with.

2. Replay the story

Pupils can replay the story recalling as much as possible. Make sure everything is child-safe.

3. Make a three dimensional display

Make a three dimensional display of the story with the characters identified. Add captions and pupil responses to questions. Make sure everything is child-safe.

4. Discussion

Talk about what was interesting or puzzling in the story and discuss the pupils' comments. Discuss their experiences of caring for others, particularly those younger than themselves.

Discuss the Christian belief that God uses people to do his work. The family and the princess to care for baby Moses and keep him safe for God.

5. Making a TV book

Make a Television book retelling this story in four pictures that you slide through a TV screen. See the **TV download**.

Pupils should choose four important scenes and be able to use them to retell the story. Why do they think Christians read this story?

6. The story in art

Explore the story in art, see: www.textweek.com/art/baby_moses.htm Links to images of baby Moses

www.heqigallery.com/shop/Gallery_OT_B.html
A modern Chinese artist

Reflection

Make or bring in a little basket and ask pupils to add their comments on the story to the basket. Adults can scribe for them.

