



MOSES

A DELIVERER IS BORN

EXODUS 1:8-22; 2:1-10 AND ACTS 7:9-22

GOAL

- ▶ **To teach children the meaning of providence—how God is personally directing the events of today, to accomplish His purpose in the future.** Joseph's brothers sought to silence his dreams and destroy him, but God had a plan to preserve his life so he could deliver his entire family from famine and certain death. God also protected Moses and raised him up as a great leader to deliver God's people from bondage. But the events of these two rescues, cannot be compared to the ultimate deliverance of God in saving the world. In these two stories, the unseen hand of God orchestrated the timely events that would ultimately prepare the world for the greatest deliverance of all—deliverance from sin and eternal death.

WORDS TO KNOW

- ▶ **Providence:** The way God directs the events of today to affect what will happen later. It is everything God has done, is doing, and will do that will bring about His grand plan. Even the evil that Joseph's brothers intended for him, God used to bring Joseph to Egypt and bring about their deliverance. And Moses, although born into slavery and under the sentence of death, was preserved by God for the future purpose of delivering God's people. The most amazing effect of God's providence is how both events prepared the way for the Messiah to come who would deliver the world!

MEMORY VERSES

- ▶ **Exodus 2:10:** When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Hebrews 11:23: By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

Romans 8:28: And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.



OVERVIEW

Read Exodus 1:8-22, 2:1-10 and Acts 7:9-22:

Many years ago, a new king rose to power in Egypt who did not remember Joseph and did not remember how God had saved his nation from a deadly famine. Instead, the Pharaoh was fearful of the people of Israel who continued to grow and became more powerful. In his attempts to slow them down, he made them slaves. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied, and the more the Egyptians became afraid. So, the Pharaoh commanded that all the baby boys born to the Hebrews be thrown into the Nile and drowned. But God heard the cries of His special people and a deliverer was born. This baby boy's God-fearing parents hid him from the Egyptians for as long as they could, and when they could hide him no longer, his mother made a basket and hid him among the reeds in the Nile River. The would-be deliverer was rescued by an Egyptian princess, and she named the boy Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

SUGGESTIONS

The providence of God means that He directs all things for the sole purpose of accomplishing His perfect will. God promises that every circumstance in the lives of those who love Him and follow Him will eventually produce something amazing—something perfect. For those who trust Him, His way leads to an eternal life and treasure beyond imagination.

Discuss God's providence by listing specific events that God put into place to preserve the life of Moses, the Great Deliverer:

1. Moses was born to a mom and dad who believed God and trusted God. They were confident that God would take care of their baby boy, and they acted in faith.
2. Moses was a beautiful baby with a heart-tugging cry. The pharaoh's daughter could not resist him and took him to be her very own little boy.
3. Moses had an older sister who believed and trusted God. She followed Moses down the Nile and bravely offered solutions to the Egyptian princess on how the baby could be cared for until he was old enough to live in the palace. Moses got to stay with his godly family a bit longer than expected.



PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

Ages 5-7 **Tiny Boat Relays** | **Supplies:** Whole walnuts opened perfectly in half, with the nuts removed, enough for each child to have one half of a shell; straws, small triangle paper cut-outs, toothpicks, and any other tiny decorations; and large rectangular tub filled with water.

As time allows, have the kids decorate their half shell "boat." The children will compete by blowing their boats to the other side of the tub using straws. The first one to reach the other side stays to compete with the next child, and so on. Provide enough containers to keep the competition going based on the size of the group.

The basket that baby Moses was placed into was much like a tiny boat.

Ages 5-7 and Ages 8-10 **Obstacle of Reeds** | **Supplies:** Several items to use as obstacles such as cones, chairs, limbo kits, hula hoops, etc.

Set up two or three identical obstacle courses and divide the group into teams. On "go," have the first person from each team "wade" through the set of obstacles to get to the other side. Once they reach the other side, the next child will go, and so on. The first entire team to reach the other side wins.

After placing baby Moses into the basket made for him, his mother hid him in the Nile River in a patch of reeds growing near the bank.

Ages 8-10 **Please, Nile Crocodile**

Select one person in the group to be the "Nile Crocodile." Line up the rest of the group across the other side of the room, facing the "crocodile." When the game begins, the group will shout together, "Please Nile Crocodile, may we cross the river? If not, why not, what's your favorite color?" The crocodile will call out one color, and all those wearing that color cross over to the other side safely. Once the players wearing that color are safely over, the rest of the group must try to pass the crocodile without getting caught. The player who is caught becomes the next "Nile Crocodile," and the game begins again.

Explain to the children that the Nile River was not a very friendly place. Among the dangers were deadly snakes and aggressive crocodiles, but God kept Moses safe from all the dangers.



MEMORY
VERSE
MEANING

▶ **Exodus 2:10:** The name Moses means “To draw out,” because he was drawn from the water.

Hebrews 11:23: Moses’ parents knew God, and they believed God had a purpose for their baby, so they were not afraid of the king’s command that all baby boys be killed. It was evident to them that God’s favor was on Moses. They acted in confident faith to preserve his life.

Romans 8:28: No matter what happens to those who love God and follow Him, all things work together for their good. Even adverse events can help promote change, and create the kind of beauty that will last forever—perfected for the eternal kingdom of God.

POST-LESSON
ACTIVITY

▶ **Ages 5-7** **Balloon Baby** | **Supplies:** Large balloons

Fill up a balloon with water, draw a face on it and wrap it in a towel. Have the group divide into teams of five to eight members. Line up each team and hand the “Balloon Baby” to the person in the front. On “go,” the first person in the line will run to the other side of an area of the field, run back, and hand it off to the next person, and so on. The team to finish first, without breaking the balloon baby wins!

Baby Moses was fragile, but God watched over him while he was in the Nile and took him straight to Pharaoh’s court, where he was adopted and cared for.



Ages 5-7 Providence Unscrambled | Supplies: several large index cards. Ahead of time, write each word of the Bible verse on a different index card: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good." Write the verse out as many times as you need so that every child gets a card

If you make more than one set, make each set a different color and divide the group into separate teams. Hand out the cards at the beginning of class and have the students hold on to them until later. When they are more familiar with the verse, begin the game. Instruct the kids to first find the color team they are on (if there are teams involved), and then work to unscramble the words to reveal the verse. The first team to put the verse together in the correct order wins.

Moses' Mom and Dad trusted God, and they placed baby Moses into God's hands. As followers of Jesus, we trust God to work everything out for our good.

Ages 8-10 Hungry Humans | Supplies: medium-sized buckets, big cardboard boxes, and a bag of small, plastic, soft, air-filled balls (the king used in ball pits)

Pour balls in the center of the room. Divide the group into teams and give each team a bucket and a large cardboard box. On "go," have the first person from each team take the bucket, fill it, dump the balls into the cardboard box, and hand the bucket off to the next team member. That person will do the same until all the balls are collected. The team with the most balls in the box wins!

If God had not raised up Joseph to save the world from famine, many people in Egypt and the surrounding nations would have died of starvation.

TAKE
HOME



Moses' mom and dad trusted God with the life of their precious baby. Should we only trust God when things are looking good? No. The circumstances surrounding the birth of Moses were scary. His people were slaves in Egypt; the pharaoh wanted all babies like him, killed—things were not looking very good, but his parents still trusted God. What are ways we can trust God even when things look bad?



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: Who sold Joseph into slavery?

A1: Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery.

Q1b: Have you ever gone to school and forgotten your lunch or lunch money?

TN: Not knowing how we are going to get food when we are hungry can be scary. In Joseph's story, farmers and ranchers, people who rarely ever had difficulty feeding themselves and their loved ones, were in danger of starving. Because God had warned Joseph of the coming famine, Joseph planned ahead ensuring that the people of Egypt and surrounding areas, including Joseph's family in Canaan, would have enough food to get them through the years of bad crops. God has a plan, and if we need to do something to make sure that His plan is realized, He will find a way of letting us know; in Joseph's case, God gave him strange dreams.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: Why did the new pharaoh force the people of Israel into slavery?

A2: The new pharaoh forced the people of Israel into slavery because he was afraid they were becoming too powerful.

Q2b: Have your parents ever told you that you can't stay up later until you are older?

TN: Our parents make decisions like this not to make us mad, but out of concern for our well-being. They want to make sure that we're getting enough sleep so that we have energy to do all the things we need to do throughout the next day. Pharaoh's decision to force the people of Israel into slavery was not made with the people's well-being in mind; pharaoh made this decision out of fear and for his own peace of mind. In our case, we just need to wait until we reach the determined age. In the case of the people of Israel, even though they didn't know it, there was a time limit on their situation as well; God had a plan to free His people from slavery.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: What was to be done with baby boys born to the Hebrews?

A3: The new pharaoh ordered that baby boys born to the Hebrews be thrown into the Nile River.

Q3b: Would you ever make your favorite kind of sandwich and throw it away before even taking a bite?

TN: No way! We would eat it or give it to someone else. Now ask what students would do if an authority figure told them to throw away their uneaten sandwich. We would be more likely to do it, but we might feel sad or even angry. Why would they make us do something so unnecessary? The people of Israel were in a much more serious situation. Their babies were being taken away and killed. God saw their pain, and His plan to save them was about to launch into action.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What did the Hebrew woman do with her baby boy?

A4: The Hebrew woman hid her baby boy for as long as she could.

Q4b: If you had to hide your favorite stuffed animal, where would you put it?

TN: Putting it under our beds or in our closets could be good spots. But think about what the baby's mother had to do to keep her baby from being discovered. Babies are noisy, and they keep mothers busy, so she might not be able to do her normal daily routines. Keeping a baby hidden and safe would be a difficult job!



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: Where did the mother put the baby in the basket?

A5: The mother put the baby in the basket into the Nile River.

Q5b: Your dog just had puppies, but you can't keep them.

Would you be comfortable giving them away to strangers?

TN: It's difficult to let go of things we love, especially when we don't know how things are going to turn out. The baby's mother had two choices: trust God to take care of her baby, or hold on to him herself and potentially face the consequences of being caught with a baby and breaking the law. Could God have made His plan work if the mother chose to keep the baby? Absolutely. We can never make a decision that will remove us from God's grace and love. If she had done that, this story in the Bible would read differently, but it would end the same way because God's plans will always work out the way He wants. While the story doesn't give us this information, the mother must have felt led to carry out this plan of making a basket and putting it in the river. How difficult it must have been for this mother to carry out this decision! No matter how hard it is, when we know it's the right thing to do, we just have to let go, and let God take care of everything.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: What was the name of the baby's sister?

A6: Miriam was the baby's sister.

Q6b: Would you be allowed to walk alone to your best friend's house if you had to cross busy streets?

TN: Crossing busy streets can be dangerous, so our parents probably would not want us to go alone. Miriam was a protective big sister, and she wanted to make sure that her baby brother was safe and that someone found him. Letting a baby float down a river alone is dangerous, but letting a baby float down the Nile River could have been deadly. The Nile River is filled with all kinds of dangerous things, such as crocodiles, hippopotamuses, and snakes. She was going to follow her brother's basket until she knew he was safe.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



Q7a: Why did the princess decide to name the baby Moses?

A7: The princess named the baby Moses because she drew him out of the water.

Q7b: You just won \$100, but if you give up the \$100 prize, you get the chance to win an unknown prize. What do you do?

TN: Let students answer. Giving up a sure thing seems like a bad idea. The other prize could be something we don't want or something not as valuable as what we already have. In this story, we heard of a mother giving up her baby so he could have a chance at life. We also learned that Moses gave up his life as an Egyptian royal to gain a treasure only God could provide. When presented with situations in which we have to give up something in order to gain something from God, we will never be disappointed with the trade. Nothing this world offers can compare to the blessings God offers us!



**MEMORY
VERSES**

▶ **Exodus 2:10:** When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

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Romans 8:28: And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

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BIG IDEA

▶ **Big Idea:** God can make good come of any bad situation we may face.

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**CLOSING
PRAYER**

▶ **Closing Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending our deliverer—Jesus the Messiah. Help us to trust You with our lives, for salvation, for protection, and for guidance. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



It may not have looked like a promising future after Joseph was rejected by his own brothers and sold into slavery, but God had a plan that included mercy and a mighty deliverance. He raised Joseph out of slavery and into a powerful position over all of Egypt, and revealed to him things that no one else knew. When famine came, Joseph was prepared, and many lives were saved, including the brothers who had once despised him. With open arms, Joseph received his father Jacob, his brothers, and all their families. They lived happily together in Egypt, enjoying the blessings of God's great deliverance.

SLIDE 2



But time passed, and a new Pharaoh rose to power who did not know Joseph or remember how God had delivered them from famine and certain death. Instead, he felt threatened by the people of Israel, who were now growing in numbers and strength. Out of fear and evil in his heart, this new king forced the people of Israel into slavery and did everything he could to stop them from becoming a mighty people.

SLIDE 3



Yet another Pharaoh attempted to destroy the people of Israel by demanding that every son born to the Hebrews be killed. "Throw them into the Nile River!" he commanded. He would rather murder them than watch them continue to live in the goodness and blessings of God. Little did this king know that he sought to destroy a nation of people God had promised would be great. God was preparing His people for one of the greatest deliverance stories of all time.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 4



During the time of Pharaoh's evil order, a Hebrew woman gave birth to a baby boy; she named him Moses. Being born at this time, it may not have looked like a promising beginning for Moses, but once again, God had a plan that included mercy and a mighty deliverance. Seeing that he was no ordinary child, and his life was already marked with God's favor and mercy, Moses' mother hid him from Pharaoh's men as long as she could. When she could no longer keep him hidden, she devised a hopeful plan.

SLIDE 5



She built a strong basket and coated it with tar and pitch so that it would float like a tiny little boat. She then placed baby Moses inside, took him down to the Nile River, and hid him in the tall grass along the water's edge. As she watched him drift down the river toward an unknown future, tears filled her eyes. She was sad to let him go, but her hope was in God.

SLIDE 6



Moses' sister, Miriam, ran along the river bank, watching the basket as it swiftly drifted downstream. She anxiously looked ahead, hoping for a miracle to save her little brother's life. The basket soon broke away from the bulrushes and plants, and came into view of an Egyptian princess and her maidens who were bathing in the river.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 7



When the Princess noticed the curious basket floating in the water, she sent one of her maidens to fetch it. What a surprise to see such a beautiful child looking up at her! His cries melted her heart. Immediately she recognized it was a Hebrew baby boy. "I will raise him as my own," she said as she held onto the child protectively. So Moses began a life of privilege and pleasure among the royals in Egypt, but one day he would give it all up to gain a treasure that only God could give.