** BIBLE 101**

Unit 3: The Lord is My Helper

*Moses – The Babe in the Basket*

**A Note to the Teacher:** Moses is one of the central figures in the formation of our faith heritage. After leading the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses received the 10 Commandments that would shape and direct the life of God’s people even today. This lesson focuses on *infant* Moses, and the way that God cared for and protected him. Children will learn what it means to be loved by God – a boundless love that is capable of helping us even when the stakes seem impossible.

Take the opportunity to explain that sometimes we cannot see or understand how God is helping us, but that God is always on our side. Moses’ mother could not understand what God had planned for her baby when she put him in the basket, but God had a plan for Moses. Though hard to understand at the time, God helped Moses grow up to become a leader of God’s people. How does this happened in our lives?

**Gathering**

As students enter the space, gather them in a seated circle. Place a basket in the center of the room with a baby doll inside. **Say, “Today, we are going to talk about a story that many of you have probably heard before. I have here a basket and a tiny baby. Using these clues, does anyone know what that story might be?”** Give time for answers.

**Say, “This month, we are looking at stories in the Bible that teach us how the Lord is our *helper*. In our story, God helps a little baby by keeping him safe from danger and allowing him to grow up to be an important leader for God’s people. Our story is the story of Moses.”**

\*Note: Many children will want to interject what they know about infant Moses here. You may choose to allow some time for discussion.\*

For grades 2-5, have students turn to the Exodus 2 in their Bibles. For prek-grade 1, open the teacher’s Bible to Exodus 2. You may choose to read directly from the Bible or from the Bible Storybook (recommended for younger classes).

**Say, “In the Old Testament, God’s people are called the Israelites. The Israelites had made a home in Egypt. Only a few Israelites arrived in Egypt, but over the years they married and had children, and now there were thousands of Israelites. The ruler of Egypt was called the Pharaoh. Pharaoh was threatened by the Israelites. He worried that if their group grew much bigger they would form an army and would try to overthrow him and claim the land of Egypt as their own.”**

**Ask, “What kind of person do you think Pharaoh was? Was he kind? Did he care about others?”**

**Say, “Pharaoh wanted to keep control of Egypt for himself, so he ordered that all Israelite baby boys be killed. If they did not have any young men, they would not be able to form an army (at that time, only men could serve in an army). Every newborn baby boy was ordered to be thrown into the Nile River and drowned. He let the baby girls live, certain that he would be able to use them to do jobs in his kingdom.”**

This is where the story of baby Moses picks up.

Read, or invite volunteers to read, the story of baby Moses in Exodus 2:1-10.

Moses’ mother did not know what would happen to her son when she placed him in the basket, but she prayed to God to help him.

Spend a few moments discussing the age-appropriate questions.

Prek-Grade 1:

1. How long did Moses’ mother hide her baby in her house?
2. When she couldn’t hide him any longer, what did Moses’ mother do with him?
3. Where did Pharaoh’s daughter find the baby?
4. How did God protect Moses in this story?

Grades 2-5:

1. Instead of throwing him in to the Nile, what did Moses’ mother do with her baby?
2. When she couldn’t hide him any longer, what did Moses’ mother do with him?
3. Where did Pharaoh’s daughter find the baby?
4. Do you think it was an accident that Pharaoh’s daughter found Moses? Was it part of God’s plan?
5. Who did Pharaoh’s daughter find to nurse the baby?
6. How did God protect Moses in this story?

**Say, “When Moses grew up, God helped him to lead the Israelite out of Egypt and away from Pharaoh to a land where they could live freely. God had a plan for Moses’ life, and God helped and protected baby Moses. God has a plan for our lives, too, and God helps and protects us. Even when things seem impossible – like when Pharaoh ordered all baby boys to be killed – God is our helper that guides us through the tough times.”**

In older classes, take a few moments to discuss times when God children have experienced God as a helper.

**Babes in a Basket**

**Say, “Moses’ mother wrapped her baby in a blanket, placed him in a basket, and sent him down the river. Today, we are going to make our own “babes in a basket” to help us remember the story of Moses and the way that God helps and protects all of God’s children.”**

Set out crescent dough, cheese, hot dogs, and cookie sheets.

**Say, “Babes in a basket may look a lot like a snack you have had before. The hot dogs are going to be our baby Moses. The cheese is our blanket, and the crescent dough is our basket. Take a baby Moses, wrap it in the blanket, and then tuck it in to a basket. Then you can place it on the cookie sheet.”**

Demonstrate how to make a Babe in a Basket, and then help students get to work on making their own. Keep working until all of the hot dogs are wrapped.

**Say, “Instead of placing our baskets in the river, we are going to place them in the oven.”** Walk, as a group, to the kitchen and place the cookie sheets in the preheated 400F oven. Set a timer for 10 minutes.

While the snack bakes, return to the classroom. Set out baskets and baby dolls, as well as coloring sheets and crayons/markers.

**Say, “While our babes are baking, we have a few options. I have put out some babies and baskets so that you can reenact the story – you could even come up with your own mini play! There are also coloring and activity sheets for those that would rather have a quiet activity.”**

As students play, move between them asking questions about God’s help for Moses and God’s help in their own life. Where do they see God helping in the world? Is it always easy to see that God is helping us in hard times? When things are difficult, does it mean that God has stopped helping?

**Closing**

When the timer beeps, return to the kitchen to retrieve the babes in a blanket. Transfer them to a play and return to the classroom to sample the snack!