

Lesson Video for Step 2!
Check out the contents
page for details.

Lesson

1

Miriam Helps Her Baby Brother

1

BIBLE BASIS

Miriam cares for baby Moses (Exodus 1:6—2:10).

BIBLE TRUTH

God can use brothers and sisters to help care for each other.

MEMORY VERSE

“Let us love one another, for love comes from God.” 1 John 4:7

LESSON AIM

Students will thank God for family members who help care for them.

1

LIFE NEED (5 MINUTES)

- Name ways families can help care for each other

2

BIBLE LEARNING (10–15 MINUTES)

- Teach with pictures about Miriam caring for her brother
- Review the Bible lesson with questions and coloring activity



Materials: Bible, “Miriam and Baby Moses” (Teaching Aid 2), *Storytime* paper for Lesson 1

3

BIBLE APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- Teach the memory verse with a rhyme
- Color a picture of Miriam and Moses



Materials: *Early Elementary Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 1; *optional*—watercolor paints, brushes, smocks, paper towels, containers of water

4

LIFE RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)

- Hear a story of children helping care for each other
- Plan to care for family members

Materials: *Storytime* paper for Lesson 1, Parent Page

Understanding Your Students

As you talk about brother-sister relationships this week, be prepared to hear different responses. Early-elementary children may have mixed feelings about their brothers and sisters. Some children with baby brothers and sisters may feel jealous about the amount of time a baby requires, while others may be proud to be a big brother or sister. Children who are the youngest in the family may enjoy all the attention they get.



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.

Understanding the Bible

God continued to bless the Israelites, and their numbers increased even though they were treated as slaves by the Egyptian dynasty. The pharaoh, in fact, was concerned that the Hebrews were becoming so numerous that they might unite with other nations to fight against the Egyptians (Exod. 1:9). The Hebrews living in Goshen, on the northeast border of Egypt, could easily have joined with nearby armies.

In order to control the Israelite population, the pharaoh ordered the midwives to kill all baby boys born to Israelite women. (Daughters were not a threat, since they could be married to the Egyptians and lose their national identity.) When this plan failed, Pharaoh gave orders that all male Israelite babies were to be drowned.

Moses was born to Israelite parents, Amram and Jochebed, during this time (Exod. 6:20). Moses' parents were from "the tribe of Levi" (Exod. 2:1). Levi was one of the 12 sons of Jacob (who was renamed Israel). It was the tribe of Levi that provided the nation of Israel with priests and Levites (see Heb. 7:5). Therefore, Aaron,

the first high priest, was from the tribe of Levi.

Moses' mother was able to hide him for three months. Then she placed him in a small boat made from the seaworthy papyrus plant and left the boat in the reeds by the river. Her daughter, Miriam, watched to see what would happen to the baby.

We don't know for sure which Egyptian princess rescued Moses. Some have claimed that the Egyptian princess of Exodus 2:5 was the famous Princess Hatshepsut, who was later queen of Egypt. This all depends on the dating of the time of the Exodus.

We do know that Miriam acted decisively when she asked the princess if she wanted "one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby" (Exod. 2:7). Miriam's quick action gave Jochebed the opportunity to care for Moses until he was weaned and to train Moses in God's ways during his early years.

"Moses" is like the names of certain famous pharaohs—Thutmose, Ahmose, etc. It sounds like the Hebrew word which means "drew . . . out" (Exod. 2:10).

Classroom Tips

Use these activities to help the children recognize the love and happy feelings they have for their brothers and sisters.

- Ask the children the names of their brothers and sisters. This will let the children know that you feel that their family members are important. Throughout the morning, mention the names of the children's family members and remind your students that God gave them brothers and sisters.
- Be sensitive to children who do not have brothers and sisters. Encourage them to think of ways that a friend, a cousin, or a teenage helps care for them. They can thank God for that special person.
- Mention that all adults and all boys and girls who love Jesus are brothers and sisters in God's family. They show love for each other at church each week. They also help and pray for each other throughout the week.

Worship Activities

- Begin your worship time each week by singing a song on the PraisePAC audio files from your Creative Teaching Aids **PraisePAC** packet.

- Collect offerings from children. Say a prayer of thanks.

- Help the children prepare to pray.
Dear God, You give us everything that we have. Thank You for our families who brought us to church today and for all the people who help us learn about You. Help us to be good listeners at church. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Before Class


Give each child a personal greeting. **Today we will learn how God can use brothers and sisters to help care for each other.** Place the Fall Attendance Chart on a low bulletin board or lay it on a table near the door. Have children mark their attendance as they arrive. They may use small stickers, write an X, or color in a square. Have children place their offerings in an offering container such as a simple basket. Then lead them to the first activity of the day.



"Fall Attendance Chart"
Teaching Aid 1

Getting Started

The following activities will prepare the children for the story of how God used Miriam to help care for her baby brother Moses.

-  **Play Dough:** Make play dough baskets and babies. **Have you ever seen a baby sleeping in a big basket, called a bassinet? In Bible times families took care of their babies in baskets that they made.**
- **Puzzles:** Work puzzles that show family scenes. **Today we will hear about a big sister who took care of her little brother.**
- **Books and Pictures:** Have the children look at family photos or books about families from the library. Suggest looking for and talking about how brothers and sisters help one another.

1

1 Life Need 5 minutes

Objective: Students will name ways family members can help care for each other.

This brainstorming activity will prepare your students for the Bible story about how Miriam cared for her little brother, Moses. Gather your students to begin the activity and discussion.

At the top of your whiteboard, write this title, "People in Our Families." Ask the children to name people in their families. As they name people, write them on the board. Make your printing large and easy to read. A brainstorming activity should be active. Try to keep the suggestions coming at a lively pace. Respond positively to every person named and write each one on your class list. The list your children create will reflect the collection of their unique knowledge and experience. When the brainstorming pace slows, ask for any more final suggestions. Then point to each name as you slowly read aloud each family person suggested. Have the children repeat each one after you.

We have listed many different people in our families. Each one of the people in our families needs care from other family members sometime. Let's talk about how the people in our families care for one another.

- **How do the people in your family care for you?** (Mom makes dinner, Dad or Mom goes to work, sister helps with homework, brother holds the door, Dad opens the car door, Grandma babysits, Mom cares for me when I'm sick, and so on.)
- **How do you care for people in your family?** (The children might suggest things they make to give to family members, helpful actions like setting the table and cleaning their rooms, being kind and loving to a sibling, playing with a younger sibling. Reinforce the kindness and helpfulness of their actions.)
- **Why should we care for the people in our families?** (The children in your class might have very different thoughts on this question. Some answers might be: families get along better, we love our families, God wants us to, I like to be helpful, and so on.)

Today we are learning that God can use brothers and sisters to help care for each other. Our Bible story is about a Bible-time girl who cared for her baby brother. Let's learn how she cared.

2

Bible Learning

10-15 minutes

Objective: Students will learn how Miriam cared for her baby brother Moses.

Before class, remove the figures from Teaching Aid 2. Attach self-adhesive hook or glue dots to the back of the figures. Place them in the order you will use them. Open the slit on Figure 7. (Save Figure 1 to use next week too.) Open your Bible to Exodus 2.

BIBLE STORY

(Place Pharaoh, Figure 1, at the upper right of the story board.) **This was the Pharaoh of Egypt. He was the king of Egypt, but they called him “pharaoh” rather than “king.” Pharaoh said, “These Hebrew families are too big! I should have all of the**

Hebrew baby boys killed so they can’t make their own army and take over my kingdom!”

Pharaoh told his people to kill all the

Hebrew baby boys, so they couldn’t grow up to fight against him. (Remove king, add mother, Figure 7, with baby, Figure 3, tucked in her hand.)

The Hebrew families with baby boys were sad! One baby’s mother did not want her baby boy to be killed, so she got an idea for a way to care for him. She made a basket that would float and put her baby in the basket boat. (Remove mother and baby. Place kneeling mother, Figure 2, and basket, Figure 4, at the center.)

Then the mother hid the basket in the tall grass growing in the Nile River. Miriam, the baby’s big sister, watched the basket boat from a distance. (Remove mother, add Miriam, Figure 5, to the upper left.) **Miriam knew that God wanted her to care for her baby brother.**

Miriam stayed near the river to watch the

baby in the basket. She didn’t know what would happen, but she was ready to do whatever was needed to care for her baby brother.

Soon Pharaoh’s daughter, who was a princess, came to the river to wash. (Walk the princess, Figure 6, up to the right of the basket.)

She found the basket and looked inside. “This must be one of the Hebrew children,” the princess said. She felt sad for the child.

Miriam knew that the princess liked her brother. (Move Miriam, Figure 5, up to the princess.) **Miriam went up and asked, “Shall I get a Hebrew woman to help you with the baby?”**

The princess said, “Yes, find someone for me.” Miriam ran home and brought her mother to the princess. (Run Miriam, Figure 5, away and bring her back with her mother, Figure 7.)

The princess said to the mother, “Take good care of this baby for me. When he is no longer a baby, bring him to the palace and I will raise him like my son.” (Remove basket, Figure 4; add baby, Figure 3, in the slit in his mother’s arms.)

(Remove princess, Figure 6.) **The family was happy to have their son back home. Miriam was happy she was able to care for her baby brother.**

After he grew to be a young boy, his mother took him to the palace and he became the princess’s son. The princess named the boy Moses because she found him in the water.

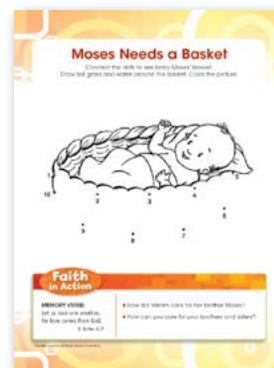


“Miriam and Baby Moses” Teaching Aid 2

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

■ **How did Miriam care for Moses?** (She asked the princess if she should get someone to care for the baby. She ran to get her mother.)

Distribute *Storytime* for Lesson 1 and have children complete page 4.



Storytime, Lesson 1, page 4

3 Bible Application 10 minutes

Objective: Students will learn how they can help care for brothers and sisters.

MEMORY VERSE

Help students find the memory verse on page 4 of *Storytime*. **Now we're going to learn a new Bible verse.** Read the verse together with your students: **"Let us love one another, for love comes from God" (1 John 4:7).**

Talk about what it means to love. Explain that we show love when we help care for our brothers and sisters.

Listen for the Bible memory verse as I say the rhyme. Repeat the poem line by line, pausing for the children to imitate your words and actions. Introduce the second verse in the same way.

When someone needs your help,
(Cup hand to ear.)
answer with a nod.
(Nod head.)
The Bible says, "Let us
love one another,
(Fold hands open to make a book.)
for love comes from God."
(Point upward.)

When the children are familiar with the verse, you might want to let them sing along with the song, "Love One Another," found on the PraisePAC audio files from your Creative Teaching Aids packet.

Collect the *Storytime* papers and put them away until the end of class.

HANDCRAFT

Remove Lesson 1 from each *Early Elementary Make-It/Take-It*. Show the children how to remove the top margin on the project.

Provide each child with crayons. Let your students color their pictures as they wish.

Optional— you may wish to provide watercolor paints, brushes, containers of water, smocks or old shirts to protect the children's clothing. Let the children paint the picture instead of coloring. Paper towels may be needed for spills.

Miriam stayed by the river to watch over her baby brother Moses.

We can help care for our younger brothers and sisters. And our older brothers and sisters can help care for us. God is happy when families help each other.



Make-It/Take-It, Lesson 1



4

Life Response 10 minutes

Objective: Students will plan to care for family members.

Read aloud “Maya Helps David” on pages 2-3 of *Storytime* for Lesson 1.

PRESENT-DAY STORY

“Why do we have to watch out for each other at the park?” David asked.

“Because that’s what families do. They take care of each other,” said Dad.

“I can take care of myself,” David said.

Mom gave him a big hug. “We love you and want you to be safe,” she said.



Storytime, Lesson 1, pp. 2-3

Soon Ms. Davis and Nathan picked up Maya and David and they all walked to the park together. Their friend, Kira, was meeting them there.

David and Nathan and Maya could see the park. They began running. David tripped and fell. Maya stopped and asked, “Are you okay?”

“Yes,” David said. Maya held out her hand to help her brother get up.

“Thanks, Maya,” David said, smiling.

When they got to the playground, the children took turns playing on the slide. They made tunnels in the sand. They played tag.

David knew Maya was really good on the rings.

“Maya, can you help me on the rings?” David asked.

“Sure,” she said. “Hold on tight and I’ll stay close to help if you need it.”

David started across. “Swing your body and reach your hand to the next ring. Good job!” Maya shouted.

“I made it, Maya!” David yelled. “Thank you for helping me.”

When they got home, Dad asked, “Did you have fun?”

“Yes,” David said. “I took care of myself. Well . . . not all the time. Maya helped me when I fell and she helped me get across the rings. I’m glad families look out for each other.”

Maya was glad she could help care for David.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

God wants people in families to care for one another.

You may refer to the list your class made in Step 1, Life Need. **Choose someone in your family you can care for this week. Let’s each say who we will care for and how we will care for them. I’ll go first. Have each child say, “I will care for _____ by _____.”**

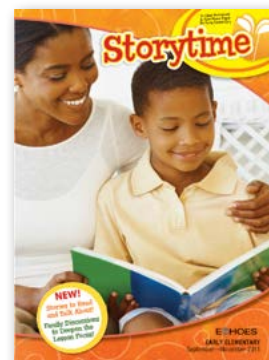
Pray with your class. Suggest that children ask God to help them care for the people they named and thank Him for their families. **Dear God, Thank You for giving us our families. Help us care for them and love them. Remind us to thank them when they care for us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Make sure children have their *Make-It/Take-It* craft, *Storytime* for Lesson 1, and the quarterly *Storytime* Parent Page. Explain to parents that this page provides them with the Bible lessons and memory verses being studied this quarter as well as family activities for the quarter. Say a personal goodbye to each child.

Remember to help care for people in your family.



Storytime, Lesson 1, page 1



Storytime, Parent Page