

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 2 – Lesson 5
Moses' Birth (Exodus 2:1-10)

Theme: Moses as a Hero

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord protected Moses and prepared Him for the great work of leading the children of Israel out of Egypt.
- B. Moses represents the Lord as to His Divine laws, especially the Ten Commandments.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

1. Our story is about a little baby boy. He lived a long time ago in a land called Egypt. He was a little Hebrew baby. Now Egypt had a wicked king named Pharaoh. He didn't want any Hebrew baby boys in his country. So the baby's mother was afraid. Let's hear what she did. We'll read from the Lord's Word.

B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read Exodus 2:2-4. Retell and discuss this part of the story.
 - a. Moses was a beautiful baby.
 - b. His mother hid him for three months.
 - c. She made an ark (or basket) of bulrushes (tall grass that grows in water). She spread pitch on it - that was sticky stuff to make the basket able to float in the water like a boat.
 - d. She put the baby in the basket and put it in the river by the side. The baby's mother hoped someone would find him.
 - e. Moses was very safe in his ark of bulrushes because the Lord was taking care of him.
 - f. The baby's sister watched and waited to see what would happen to him.
 - g. Let's hear from the Lord's Word what happened to the baby.
2. Read Exodus 2:5-6. Retell and discuss this part of the story.
 - a. Who found the baby? (Pharaoh's daughter and her maids)
 - b. The baby cried when Pharaoh's daughter opened the ark. This made her sad, and she wanted to help the little baby.
 - c. The baby's sister was very happy to know her baby brother was going to be safe. Let's hear now what his sister did.

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3. Read Exodus 2:7-10
 - a. The sister asked Pharaoh's daughter if she wanted her to go and find a nurse for the baby, someone to feed him and take care of him. What did Pharaoh's daughter say? ("Go")
 - b. The sister went to get the baby's mother. His mother took care of him until he grew bigger.
 - c. Then his mother took him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son.
 - d. What did she name him? (Moses) "So she called his name Moses, saying, 'Because I drew him out of the water.'" Let's say this part together. (Repeat quote.)

C. Further Ideas

1. The Lord brought Pharaoh's daughter to the river at just the right time. It was really the Lord who saved Moses.
2. When Moses grew up, he went away to another country. He became a shepherd and took care of sheep. One day, the Lord spoke to Moses. He told Moses that he was going to help all the Hebrew people to get out of Egypt, away from the wicked Pharaoh. Moses didn't think he could do such a big job, but the Lord promised to help him.
3. Next time we have Sunday School together, we'll hear a story about Moses' taking the Hebrew people out of Egypt, and we'll learn about some very special ways in which the Lord helped him.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Moses in the Bulrushes" from *Lori's Songs From The Word II*
 - a. Learn each verse.
 - b. Sing again with hand movements.
2. If time allows:
 - a. "When I'm happy I like to sing," *First Songs*, p. 2.
 - b. "All that the Lord has spoken," *Hymnal* #245.

B. Activities: LET'S PRETEND TO MAKE A BASKET FOR BABY MOSES.

1. First, we need to gather many bulrushes. Let's go to the river's edge. Hold the rushes with one hand and cut them with the other. (Hold and cut, hold and cut, hold and cut.) Now carry them home.
2. Now let's make the basket. How big will your basket be? Will it be big enough to hold a baby? Move your arms around to make the basket. (Around and around and around and around)
3. Now we need to put the sticky pitch on the basket so it will be able to float like a boat. Let's use a stick to dip into the pitch and then spread it on the basket. (Dip and spread, dip and spread, dip and spread)
4. You all made wonderful baskets for baby Moses!

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C. Project: MOSES IN THE BULRUSHES

1. Materials Needed for Each Child:

- a. Half of a walnut shell
- b. Plastic or metal lid
- c. Play dough: blue, green, and white (Commercial Play dough is nice for this project because of the bright colors and texture.)
- d. Felt markers

2. Motivation

- a. Let's pretend that this walnut shell is a basket for baby Moses. Can you make a baby Moses to put into the basket? Can you make his head? His arms? His body? Let's use a marker to make his eyes and his mouth.
- b. Now we'll make part of the river to put the basket in. Let's put blue play dough on the lid to make it look like water. Can you make green bulrushes around the edge? Now baby Moses is warm and dry in his basket in the river. Who will find him there? (Pharaoh's daughter)

3. Procedure

- a. Children make Moses of white play dough and use a marker to make eyes and a mouth.
- b. Spread some blue play dough on the lid to make part of the river. Make bulrushes by rolling green "snakes," then attaching them upright.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures: Moses as a baby, and later at the burning bush
- B. Flannel board
- C. Props for storytelling or free play: doll and a basket

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 2, "The Birth of Moses."
- B. *The Sower*, Vol. 1, Lesson 34.
- C. Moses tape by Christine Taylor. Many of the ideas for adapting this story for young children and the dramatic activities came from this lovely tape.