



Moses and the Basket

Goal: To explore how it feels to be loved and safe with people who care for us.

RECOGNIZING GOD'S GRACE . . .

. . . In Exodus 1:8-2:10

An African proverb says, "It takes a village to raise a child." We could say, "It took five women to save baby Moses."

When the people of Israel were in slavery in Egypt, the king ordered midwives to kill boy babies born to Hebrew women. But two midwives resisted: Shiphrah (SHIF-ruh) and Puah (POO-uh). They let baby boys live.

Two more women who saved Moses were his mother and sister. Jochebed (JOH-kee-buhd), his mother, hid him for three months. Then she put Moses in a papyrus basket and hid him by the bank of the river. Moses' sister Miriam (MEER-ee-uhm) watched to see what would happen.

The fifth important woman was the daughter of Pharaoh. She discovered the basket and asked Moses' sister to get a nurse for the child. Miriam got Moses' mother to raise Moses before giving him to Pharaoh's daughter when he grew up.

Five women were important in the life of Moses, the person God called to lead the people of Israel. God graciously gives people to love and care for us in different ways throughout our lives. We can remember these important people and be thankful to God for them. We can also thank them for loving us.

. . . In Your Children's Experiences

Moses, who became God's faithful leader because of the wise actions of five women in his life, would not have become the leader he was without them. So, too, are the children you are leading affected by loving and caring adults in their lives. As they move into the world, meeting new teachers, coaches, and mentors, they experience the ways that they are surrounded by wise and loving people who want them to grow in gracious and healthy ways. And they are surrounded by the village, their church.

. . . In Your Relationships with the Children

Your commitment to be with the children means you are enacting God's graceful presence in their lives. In welcoming and listening to them, you are both caring and helping them grow in their life of faith. When asked what they remember about church, it's rarely the content of the curriculum, it's always the loving adults. The energy you bring, the faith that you live, and the Bible stories you tell work together in passing on faith. Be aware of each child and the particular gifts, abilities, and needs she or he brings. God's grace abounds and will surround you and your young friends.

*O God, thank you for the story of Moses and the people who cared for him.
Give me the same heart for the children. Amen.*



Supplies

Music & Melodies

bit.ly/GGGMusicMelodies

Stories, Colors & More (SCM) i-iv, 1, 22

basic supplies
(see p. vii)

internet-connected
device

blanket or mats

snack

Guided Play

choice 1: round-peg
wooden clothespins,
material scraps, large
plastic tub with water,
small plastic containers

choice 2: water-play
table (or large tub of
water); objects that sink
and objects that float

choice 3: baby dolls,
blankets, bottles

Exploring

choice 2: baby Moses
picture cut from **SCM 1a**,
cards cut from **SCM 1b**
and **1c**, blue plastic
tablecloth, 13 paper
plates

choice 3: card-stock
copies of **Grace Notes**
(**GN**) 1

choice 4: copies of
GN 2

Some SCMs are used throughout the quarter. It is a good idea to keep them in an envelope or folder for further use.

GATHERING IN GOD'S GRACE

Before the Children Arrive

Designate a story corner and lay out a blanket or individual mats for the children so their backs will be to the door.

Post **SCM i-ii**, “Your Visual Schedule.” Cut out and glue the arrow marker onto a clothespin. Use the schedule to provide clear expectations and a visual cue for the group.

See **SCM iii-iv** for the key to icons (for example, **LG** **T**) and ways to adapt for children who have special needs or disabilities.

Select the activities that will work best for you and for your children. You do not need to do everything suggested!

“Exploring God’s Grace” choice 3 requires more prep.

Welcoming and Guided Play



Greet children as they arrive and say, “Grace and peace be with you.” Prompt them to respond, “And also with you.” Be sensitive to any children who might be coming for the first time.

Introduce yourself to parents/caregivers. Explain to them that the children will hear a story about baby Moses. Invite the children to look at the guided-play activities and pick one to start:

- 1. Making Moses Float**—Invite the children to make a baby Moses clothespin doll. Have them put two dots on the clothespin head with a permanent marker for eyes. They can wrap the clothespin in material scraps. Use glue or ribbon to hold the material in place. Put several inches of water in a large plastic tub. Place the baby Moses doll in a small plastic container and encourage the children to float baby Moses. They can guide him from one side of the tub to the other. Rejoice when baby Moses arrives safely.
- 2. Playing Will It Float?**—Gather a few children at a time around a table and play “Will It Float?” Show the children the variety of objects you have gathered. Invite each child to choose an item to put in the water. Before the child drops the object into the water, ask him or her to guess if it will sink or float. Tell the children that today’s story is about a baby who floats in a basket.
- 3. Caring**—Provide baby dolls, blankets, bottles, and so forth. Encourage the children to act out ways to care for babies. Ask the children about their experiences with helping care for babies: little brothers, sisters, cousins, and friends.

T Give the children a signal when it’s time for something new; sing a familiar song or repeat a phrase such as: “One, two, something new.” Expect this to be difficult for some, especially if they are new to your group. It may be helpful to give a child a specific task.



Transitioning to Story Time

When you sense the children are ready to move into group time, call them to the story corner, singing “Thank You, God, for Loving Me”—**SCM 22**. Repeat words and phrases as seems appropriate.

We Are God’s Family M

Invite the children to repeat your words and actions.

You and you and you and you (*point to those in circle*) /
are part of God’s big family. (*hug yourself*) /
I stretch my arms to hold you all, (*stretch arms around each
child on each side*) /
a great big circle we will be. (*hold hands forming a circle*) /
God’s arms reach around the world (*stretch arms out wide*) /
and hold each child in loving care. (*hug yourself*) /
For God loves you and you and you (*point to those in circle*) /
and all the children everywhere. (*stretch arms out wide*) /

Thank You, God, for the Gift of Me C

Go around the circle, saying to each child, “(Name), you are a child of God.” Then tell the children that God made each of us and that each of us has special gifts. Invite the children to repeat after you: “Thank you, God, for the gift of me! Amen.”

Hearing the Story L M

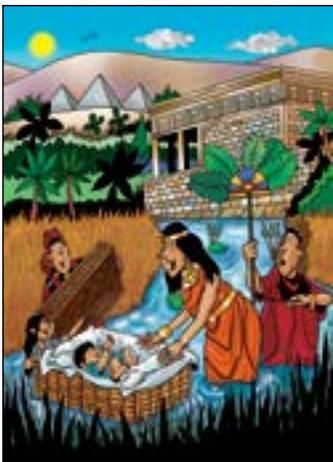
Open the Bible to Exodus 1 so the children know the story comes from the Bible. Tell the children that they are going to hear a story about when Moses was a baby.

Read **SCM 1**. Express the emotions of the story in your voice, gestures, and facial expressions. Conclude the story by prompting the children to say, “Amen.”

Read the story again, telling them that, every time they hear the word *baby* in the story, they should say, “Rock, rock, shhh.” Show them how to put their arms in front of them as if holding a baby and rock, and then put their pointer finger to their lips as they say “shhh.”

Then guide the children in a call and response. Tell the children that you will say a line and they will answer with “Rock, rock, shhh.”

Baby Moses, mother is loving. (*Rock, rock, shhh.*)
Baby Moses, sister is helping. (*Rock, rock, shhh.*)
Baby Moses, princess is caring. (*Rock, rock, shhh.*)
All God’s children, God is loving. (*Rock, rock, shhh.*)
All God’s children, God is helping. (*Rock, rock, shhh.*)
All God’s children, God is caring. (*Rock, rock, shhh.*)



Today’s story can be found in *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible*, edited by Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Carol A. Wehrheim (Louisville, KY: Flyaway Books, 2018), www.pcusastore.com.



EXPLORING GOD'S GRACE

1. Baby in a Basket



Have the children join hands and form a circle. Tell them to drop hands and sit down on the floor with their legs crossed. Teach them the following rhyme. (Sing to the tune of “A Tisket, a Tasket.”)

A baby, a baby,
a baby in a basket.
Princess found him floating by
and then she named him Moses.

Play a variation of Duck Duck Goose. Select one child to be “It.” As everyone sings or says the rhyme, “It” walks around the circle until the group sings or says the name “Moses.” “It” gently taps the head of the child in front of him or her, then quickly walks around the circle while the child he or she tapped jumps up and tries to reach the spot where the child was sitting. If “It” reaches the spot, he or she will sit in the spot vacated and the other child becomes “It.” Make the game more difficult by having the children crawl like baby Moses instead of walking.

2. Baby Moses Game



Play a group game to help the children remember the story. Tell the children that they are going to help get the baby Moses safely down the river. Invite them to help you set up the game:

- ▼ Have the children place a blue plastic tablecloth on the floor to be the river, securing the edges with tape.
- ▼ Hand out twelve paper plates. Roll pieces of tape to make tape donuts to place on the back of each plate.
- ▼ Have the children place the plates along the length of the river as they wish. The movement of the game will move the baby Moses from plate to plate; as long as there is a beginning and an end, where the plates are placed doesn't matter.
- ▼ Write large numbers, 1–12, on the plates so the children know the order as they are playing.
- ▼ Cut out and glue the baby Moses picture from **SCM 1a** to another paper plate.
- ▼ Cut apart the game cards on **SCM 1b** and **1c**.

Gather the children and give the baby Moses plate to one child. Invite another child to draw a game card. Read the question on the back and ask the group for the answer. Once they have answered, have the child with the plate place baby Moses on the first spot on the



river. Continue the play, taking turns drawing a game card, answering the question together, and moving baby Moses along the river.

When Moses reaches the last plate, invite the children to clap and rejoice that Moses is safe. Give thanks for all the people who cared for Moses.



3. Moses Book



Before the session, make card-stock copies of GN 1, making a set for each child. Cut out the cards. Punch holes in the cards where indicated.

Tell the children they will make a book they can take home to share the story of baby Moses with their families. Give each child a set of cards with the letters M, O, S, E, and S. Have the children point to the M card. Read the story on this card. Do the same for each of the other cards, noting that there are two S cards, one shorter than the other. Use the shorter S card first, saving the long S card for last. Point out that their five cards spell the name *Moses*.

Invite the children to color the cards and then place them in order with the M on top spelling out MOSES, with the long S card on the bottom. Give each child a piece of yarn to thread through the holes of their book. Help them tie the yarn to secure the pages of their book.

Read the story on the pages of the book, having the children follow along with the books they have made. Encourage the children to take their books home and share the story with their families.

T *To help children build fine motor skills, encourage children to try activities that require eye-hand coordination, such as coloring, lacing, and simple dot-to-dot puzzles. Cheer their efforts.*

4. Coloring Page



Hand out copies of GN 2 and crayons. Invite the children to color the picture. Engage the children in conversation as they color, using the following wondering questions:

- ▼ I wonder, “What did the woman with the fan think when the princess said she wanted to keep the baby?”
- ▼ I wonder, “How did the princess, Moses’ mother, and Miriam care for baby Moses?”
- ▼ I wonder, “Who cares for us and how do they do it?”

LOVING AND SERVING GOD



Call the children to snack time, singing “Thank You, God, for Loving Me”—SCM 22. Repeat words and phrases as seems appropriate.

Have each child put away one toy or object. Invite everyone to sit around a table or on the floor. Remind the children that God loves babies and children and God loves us.

Use “wonder” questions that do not force a child to remember facts. Wondering questions help a child think aloud. Answers are neither right nor wrong. They help teach children to speak from their hearts.



Talk about how God gives us families to love and care for us. Ask the children why babies need a lot of care. Mention that God also gives us other people to love us and care about us, such as people at church, people at school, and so on. Pray a prayer of thanks:

Thank you, God, for loving babies.
Thank you, God, for tender care.
Thank you, God, for loving people
who care for children everywhere.
Amen.

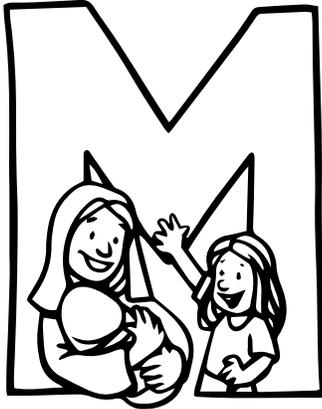
Enjoy a snack. Take a moment to tell each child something positive about your time, such as: “Thank you for the good job you did with the blocks” or “I’m glad that you and *(Name)* had fun today.”

Invite the children to look for people to love and care for, like God takes care of them, this week. As they leave, bless them: “*(Name)*, show your love for God and for others every day. The grace of God is with you.”



Ask parents and caregivers for their email addresses so that you can provide them with the link to www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads, where they can download coloring pages, *Grace Sightings*, audio stories, and songs (see p. vii).

Moses' mother and sister Miriam love him.



Oh No! The king wants all the baby boys to go away.



"Save him!" Moses' mother thinks. So she makes a basket to hide Moses from the king.



Even though Moses floated away from home, Miriam watched over him.



Saved! The king's daughter finds Moses and picks him up from the river. Miriam brings her mother to the princess. They all love Moses and care for him.



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Moses is cared for by his mother, sister Miriam, and Pharaoh's daughter.

