

LESSON 8: EXODUS: GOD SENDS MIRIAM TO PROTECT MOSES

Leader Guide for One Room

Classroom: My One Room Classroom

 Exodus 2:1-10

06/07/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Exodus 2:1-10
- In This Passage: Afraid that the Israelites would grow too powerful for the Egyptians, Pharaoh makes a rule to kill all Hebrew baby boys. When Moses is born, his mother manages to hide him for a few months. Then God uses Moses' sister, Miriam, to help keep Moses safe as he floats in a basket in the Nile River. God takes care of us through others, so Moses stays safe.
- Bible Point: God takes care of us through others.
- Summary Verse: "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them" (Romans 8:28).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God takes care of us through others.* Kids will be familiar with others taking care of them. But this lesson focuses on *Miriam*, not Moses. They'll see how God used a child in the Bible to help take care of her little brother, and consider how God can use *them* to take care of other people.
- Think About: Who takes care of you? When has God used you to take care of someone else?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that God will reveal how kids can care for those around them.

Quick Tip

- Every week, the Opening section begins with a "just for fun" greeting as well as a fun discussion question. You might be tempted to skip this and get into the heart of the lesson, but these fun openers serve an important purpose. They break the ice with a light-hearted question, allowing kids a chance to get comfortable talking to each other. Because kids are in pairs, everyone gets a chance to talk. Additionally, when you use the Opening every week, you establish a mini-ritual that can create a comforting environment for kids.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids make baskets and sneak them into a “river,” keeping their baby Moses safe.

Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- markers
- blue fabric or plastic tablecloth
- green construction paper
- brown construction paper
- glue sticks
- scissors
- crown

Easy Prep

- Place the blue fabric or plastic tablecloth on the floor near a wall, twisting it a little bit to look like a winding river.
- Fold pieces of green construction paper in half the short way and stand them up on their sides to be reeds by the river. Cut some slits in the tops of the reeds.
- Let your adult or teen helpers know that they’ll play the role of Egyptian guards. They’ll pace by the river and look in the reeds.



OBJECT LESSON

Kids build an egg-drop experiment.

Supplies

- eggs (1 for every 3-4 kids)
- tape (various kinds)
- an assortment of packing supplies (see Tips)
- plastic tablecloth
- chair

Easy Prep

- Lay the plastic tablecloth on the floor, and place a classroom chair in the center of it.



CRAFT

Kids make soup mixes to take care of others.

Supplies

- hand sanitizer
- resealable sandwich bags or mason jars (2 per child)
- large bowls (1 for every 5 kids)
- permanent markers
- dried lentils or split green peas, or a combination (2 lb. for every 5 kids)
- pearl barley (1.25 lb. for every 5 kids)
- long grain white rice (1 lb. for every 5 kids)
- small pasta (such as orzo or ditalini, for example) (1 lb. for every 5 kids)
- dried minced onion (in the spice aisle) (2 cups for every 5 kids)
- large spoon for stirring (1 for every 5 kids)
- ½ cup measuring cups
- “Caring Soup” handout (1 for every 2 kids)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Cut apart the “Caring Soup” handouts into 4 sections each.
- Find a soup kitchen or homeless shelter that will accept donations of soup mix.

(download [here](#))

- tape



MUSIC VIDEO

Kids sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- “All Creatures of Our God and King” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Stand Strong” (watch or download [here](#))
- “I Won’t Be Afraid” (watch or download [here](#))



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

Supplies

- “A Nile Surprise” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



TAKE-HOME

Kids receive a take-home page about the lesson.

Supplies

- this week’s “Dig In @ Home” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the “Dig In @ Home” handout.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray for God to take care of others.

Supplies

- slips of paper
- pens

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

Thank kids for coming.

Just for fun, have kids give an elbow-five to five friends.

Make announcements.

Introduce new kids.

Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “happy birthday” in a deep voice.

Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’re going to learn that God takes care of us through others. We’ll see how God used a girl named Miriam to take care of her baby brother, Moses.**

Share

Tell kids *your* answer to this question: If you could have any animal as a pet, what would it be? What would you do to take care of it?

Have kids form pairs and tell their partners about *their* answers to the same question.

After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Exodus 2, and say: **If you have a pet, you know you need to take care of it. But God can use you to take care of other *people*, too! That’s what happened in the Bible with Miriam and Moses. The Bible isn’t an ordinary book; it’s God’s special book. The Bible is one way God changes our lives. As we read his Word today, let’s see how he changes us. Let’s start by talking to God.**

Pray, thanking God for taking care of us through others.



Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- markers
- blue fabric or plastic tablecloth
- green construction paper
- brown construction paper
- glue sticks
- scissors
- crown

Easy Prep

- Place the blue fabric or plastic tablecloth on the floor near a wall, twisting it a little bit to look like a winding river.
- Fold pieces of green construction paper in half the short way and stand them up on their sides to be reeds by the river. Cut some slits in the tops of the reeds.
- Let your adult or teen helpers know that they'll play the role of Egyptian guards. They'll pace by the river and look in the reeds.

Give the Background

Have kids sit across the room from the "river."

Say: **Before we dig in to today's true Bible story, you need to know what God was up to. If you were here last week, you'll remember we learned about Joseph. Joseph and his brothers all moved to Egypt.**

Hundreds of years passed, and Joseph and his brothers eventually had a lot of great-great-great-great-grandkids called the Israelites.

But there was a new Pharaoh, and he was worried about how many Israelites there were! So he decided to make the Israelites into slaves.

Now remember, I told you I'd be telling you what God was up to. All this sounds like it was bad for God's people! But here's something cool: Even though the Egyptians were trying to stop the them, the Israelites kept growing bigger and bigger in number. God was with them! Let's see what that was like. Have a child come stand next to you to be an Israelite. Invite other kids to come join you, a few at a time, until everyone in your class is an Israelite. Then have kids sit back down.

Say: **Pharaoh was so worried, he made a rule to stop the Israelites from growing any more. He made a law to kill all the baby boys as soon as they were born. He asked the Egyptians who helped deliver babies to make sure that happened.**

Hmm...that doesn't sound like God was at work, either. But guess what? The Egyptians delivering the babies made up excuses and did their best *not* to obey Pharaoh's law. So it wasn't working.

God had a plan to save the Israelites from the Egyptians. He'd even picked out a special person to do it—Moses. But Moses was still a baby, so God needed Moses to live! *That's* where our story picks up today. God wanted to use someone to keep Moses safe. Today we're learning that God takes care of us through others. Let's see how God used someone to care for Moses.

Keep Your Person Safe

Say: **At first, it was Moses' mom who cared for him and kept him safe.**

Ask: • **Who keeps you safe?**

Say: **Moses' mom knew he was special, so she hid him for three months.**

Ask: • **What would be hard about hiding a baby?**

Say: **I'm going to pretend to be Moses' mom, and you'll be his sister, Miriam. I'll tell you how you can help me keep Moses safe.**

First, you need a baby Moses! Distribute paper and markers.

Say: **Draw a person on your paper. We'll make it personal; instead of drawing Moses, you can draw someone you love. Maybe you have a little brother or sister or someone else in your family who you love. If you know how to write, write the person's name on the paper, too.** Allow time. As kids draw, set brown construction paper, glue, and scissors around the room. Also make your own drawing of someone you love.

Ask: • **How would you feel if someone wanted to hurt the person you drew?**

Say: **To keep things easy, I'm going to refer to all your papers as Moses. You'll know who I mean. Okay, Miriam, I need help! I have an idea to keep Moses safe, but we'll need a basket. Help me make a basket by tearing and gluing pieces of the brown paper around Moses.** Allow time, adding a basket to your own drawing.

Say: **Thanks for your help, Miriam! Now here's the scary part: We're going to put this basket into the reeds at the edge of the river. But be careful! There are Egyptian guards all along the shore of the river. Let's bring some reeds with us to hide our faces.**

Distribute green paper, and have kids cut slits in one end so it's fringed like a reed.

Say: **Okay, let's go. We have to be *super* quiet so we don't get caught! Let's crawl on all fours to take Moses to the river, hiding our faces with our reeds. Shhh! Don't let the guards catch you! Remember, God takes care of us through others. He can use you to take care of Moses.**

Lead kids in crawling to the river with their reeds in front of their faces, carrying their Moses papers. Have your helper or helpers begin pacing along the river as guards.

Have kids set their papers among the reeds.

Say: **Miriam, I need to go back home. You're smaller, so you can hide. Stay here and hide in the reeds, and make sure Moses stays safe. Remember, God takes care of us through others.**

Have kids sit near the river, peering out from behind their reeds and watching the Egyptian guards pace along the river.

Then put on the crown and go to the river.

Say: **Now I'm Pharaoh's daughter. It's time for me to take a bath in the river. But wait! I think I see a basket.**

Pick up one of the Moses papers from the reeds. Say: **Look! It's one of the Hebrew baby boys! He's crying! What should I do?**

Allow time for kids to give suggestions of what the princess should do. It's possible that a child who's familiar with the story will suggest that Miriam offer to help. Otherwise, encourage kids to come up to you and ask if they can find a mother to care for the baby.

Say: **Yes! Go find a Hebrew mother who can take care of this baby. I want him to be safe. I'll even pay a woman to take care of this baby. When he's older I'll take him back.**

Have kids pick up their papers and take them back to safety across the room.

Talk About It

Have kids sit in a circle.

Say: **God takes care of us through others. Miriam was really important because she made sure Moses stayed safe. She was even brave enough to go offer to help the princess find someone to take care of Moses—and that person was his own mother!**

When Moses got a little older, his mom took him back to the princess, and the princess raised him in the palace as her son.

Ask: • **Tell about a time you took care of another person or an animal. Share your own example first.**

• **Have you ever had to do something scary to help someone else? Talk about that. Share your own example first.**

• **How can God help us take care of other people?**

Say: **The Bible doesn't say how old Miriam was in this story, but she was probably just a kid or a teenager. We often think of our parents or teachers as the ones who keep us safe, but did you know that God can use *you* to take care of other people? God takes care of us through others. Because of Miriam's courage, Moses was safe to grow up and do something big for God.**

One way we can care for the people we love is to pray for them. Let's pray for the people on our papers now. I'll start the prayer, and then there will be time for us to go around the circle and say the names on our papers.

Pray: **Dear God, please care for the people we love. Please take care of** [name the person you drew, and then go around the circle letting kids say the names of the people they want to pray for]. **In Jesus' name, amen.**



Supplies

- eggs (1 for every 3-4 kids)
- tape (various kinds)
- an assortment of packing supplies (see Tips)
- plastic tablecloth
- chair

Easy Prep

- Lay the plastic tablecloth on the floor, and place a classroom chair in the center of it.

Tips

- Possible packing supplies include cotton balls, paper towels, bubble wrap, newspaper, small cardboard boxes, resealable bags in various sizes, rubber bands, cardboard tubes, yarn, drinking straws, and 5-ounce paper cups.
- The amount of supplies needed will depend on the size of your class. Offer enough so that each group of 3-4 kids has options to work with.
- There are many ways to make a successful egg drop. One approach is to create a hard shell that cradles the egg, while another is to create enough padding to protect the egg from the force of the fall. Celebrate everyone's creativity, and avoid focusing on "right" or "wrong" ways to make the shelter.

Create a Shelter

Say: **In our Bible story, Moses' family made a basket to keep him safe. Let's make our own shelters—not for a baby, but for an egg! We'll see if our shelters take care of the eggs and keep them from breaking.**

Form mixed-age groups of three or four kids, and give each group an egg. Lay out all the supplies, and encourage kids to take what they need to build the best shelter for their eggs. Explain that they will have five minutes to build their shelters, and then they'll take turns trying them out.

Drop the Eggs

Have groups each place their egg snugly in their shelter and then designate a member to be the "dropper." Each dropper will explain how his or her group made the shelter and then stand on the chair to drop the egg onto the tablecloth. When finished, collect intact eggs and carefully gather and throw away the plastic tablecloth.

Talk About It

Recap the experiment, summarizing the results.

Ask: • **What kept the eggs from breaking? Why did (or might) some eggs still break?**

Say: **If the egg wasn't surrounded by enough padding or cradled so it didn't feel the force of the fall, it was a goner. But if you carefully created a supportive shelter, the egg survived.**

Ask: • **What can people do to take care of others?**

• **How is that like taking care of an egg? How is it different?**

Say: **God takes care of us through others. Sometimes we're like the egg, but often God puts us in a position where we can care for others.**

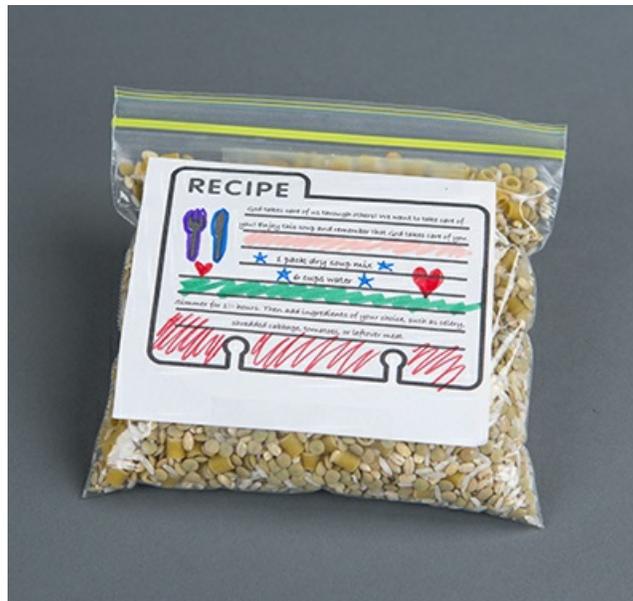


Supplies

- hand sanitizer
- resealable sandwich bags or mason jars (2 per child)
- large bowls (1 for every 5 kids)
- permanent markers
- dried lentils or split green peas, or a combination (2 lb. for every 5 kids)
- pearl barley (1.25 lb. for every 5 kids)
- long grain white rice (1 lb. for every 5 kids)
- small pasta (such as orzo or ditalini, for example) (1 lb. for every 5 kids)
- dried minced onion (in the spice aisle) (2 cups for every 5 kids)
- large spoon for stirring (1 for every 5 kids)
- ½ cup measuring cups
- “Caring Soup” handout (1 for every 2 kids) (download [here](#))
- tape

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Cut apart the “Caring Soup” handouts into 4 sections each.
- Find a soup kitchen or homeless shelter that will accept donations of soup mix.



Make Soup Mixes

Have kids form mixed-age groups of five. Give each child two resealable bags or mason jars. Set out the other supplies, one set per group. Then have kids follow these directions.

- Use permanent markers to decorate the bags or jars. They can include uplifting messages like “God takes care of you!” or “Jesus loves you!”
- Wash hands.
- Help pour all the ingredients into a large bowl.
- Stir the ingredients.
- Scoop three half-cup scoops into each bag or jar.
- Seal the bags or jars.

- Decorate the “Caring Soup” handouts, and tape those to the bags or jars.

Talk About It

Collect the soup mixes, and tell kids where you’ll be donating them.

Say: **God takes care of us through others. With the crafts you just made, God can take care of others through you. People who need food will have good food to eat when they cook this soup mix in water.**

Ask: • **What are other ways people need to be taken care of?**

• **How could you help with those needs?**

Say: **God takes care of us through others. That means he can use anyone, even kids, to help take care of those around them. Thanks for helping take care of people who need food!**

Pray over the soup mixes, asking God to show his love to the people who receive the soup.



MUSIC VIDEO

[10 min]

All Creatures of Our God and King

Supplies

- “All Creatures of Our God and King” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Stand Strong” (watch or download [here](#))
- “I Won’t Be Afraid” (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter’s DVD [here](#).

Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



Supplies

- “A Nile Surprise” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter’s DVD [here](#).

Discuss and Watch “A Nile Surprise”

Say: **We’ve been learning that God takes care of us through others. He took care of Moses through Miriam. Let’s watch a re-enactment of our Bible story.**

Watch “A Nile Surprise.”

Ask: • **What do you think about Moses’ mom’s plan to keep him safe?**

• **How can you see God at work in Moses’ story?**

• **Why do you think God uses people to help keep each other safe?**

Say: **God takes care of us through others. He can take care of us, just as he took care of Moses through Miriam. And he can use us to help care for other people!**



TAKE-HOME

Dig In @ Home

[0 min]

Supplies

- this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

Distribute a copy of the "Dig In @ Home" handout to kids as they leave, or email it to parents during the week.



Supplies

- slips of paper
- pens

Write a Name

Have kids stand up. Say: **Today we've learned that God takes care of us through others, and that we can take care of others with God's help. Think of someone in your life who needs some love and care.**

Distribute slips of paper and pens. Have kids each write the name of the person they thought of, or draw a picture of that person.

Pray

Have kids each weave their fingers together and hold their hands palms-up to look like a basket. They can use their "baskets" to hold their slips of paper.

Say: **Praying is one way God can use us to take care of others. Take some time to silently pray as you hold the name of the person you thought of in your "basket."** Allow time.

Close

Pray: **God, thank you that even though you can take care of us on your own, you give us other people to take care of us, too. Help us see ways we can care for the people you've put in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.