

Reading: Exodus Chapter 1 & 2

Who has a baby at home?

Does it cry and make a noise?

Today we are going to learn about a very special baby.

In our last lesson we remember how Joseph and his brothers had all gone to live in the land of Egypt because of the famine. They stayed there many years and had big families who also had children until they were no longer a family but a "nation". We remember that when Jacob was old God gave him a new name "Israel" so the big family was called "The children of Israel or "Israelites", these are all the people born of Jacob's 12 sons.

Now the King who had been so kind to Joseph had died and the King who was now on the throne began to be very unkind to the Israelites. He made them become his slaves and work very hard. They had to build cities, make bricks and work in the fields. Pharaoh's officers stood over them to make sure that they worked very hard.

In spite of this, the Israelites kept growing more and more in numbers and Pharaoh was afraid that the Egyptians might lose if they ever went out to battle against the Israelites. So Pharaoh thought out this wicked plan of throwing all the boy babies into the river.

Now there was a woman and a man whose names were Amram and Jochebed and they had a baby son whose name was Moses (meaning drawn out) and when she heard Pharaoh's wicked plan she hid Moses for 3 months and when she could not hide him any longer she made an ark from bulrushes and put Moses in the ark and went to the edge of the river and let it float away. Now Moses' sister Miriam watched the ark float to see where it ended up.

Pharaoh's daughter came down to wash herself in the river and saw the ark among the rushes and asked one of her maids to fetch it from the water. When she opened it she saw the baby. Now Miriam went up to Pharaoh's daughter and asked if she could go and get a nurse to look after the baby, so Miriam went and fetched Moses' own mother. Moses' mother received wages to look after her own baby. She would teach Moses all about God and the land which had been promised to Abraham and when he was old enough he went to live in the Palace with the Egyptian Princess. He would have servants wait on him and fine clothes to wear and would have wise men to teach him his lessons. But he never forgot that he was an Israelite boy and belonged to God.

God saved this baby because he had a special work for him to do when he grew up.

One day Moses went down to where his own people were working very hard. Now while he was there he found an Egyptian fighting with an Israelite, he tried to help the Israelite, and killed the Egyptian, he was afraid and hid him in the sand. The next day he felt he must go again and see how the Israelites were getting on and found two Israelites fighting and tried to stop

them. When one said "wilt thou kill me as thou didst the Egyptian yesterday?". Moses was afraid, and ran away to the desert.

So Moses wasn't quite ready yet to do this big task for God and the time wasn't quite ready for God to send him to lead out His people, as we shall see next week.

Point to remember: God saved Moses because He had chosen him for special work.