



*God used Isaac, Joseph and Moses to do special work for Him.
And God also has special work for you to do as part of His plan.*



What do you want to say to God about His future plan for you?

I am having a hard time with _____.

A job I would enjoy doing for You is _____.

_____.



Please help me remember that You are my friend, and my life today is part of my training to follow Your plan.



GOD'S YOUNG FRIENDS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

LESSON 3

Moses: Friend of God

Moses' family were slaves in Egypt. His great-grandfather, Levi, had come to Egypt with the rest of his family when their long-lost brother Joseph had invited them. They lived in the best part of Egypt. Yet they always remembered God's promise that He would lead them back to the country they left behind.

Years after Joseph died, a new Pharaoh ruled.

Why do these Hebrew people who aren't even Egyptians live in the best places?

I don't know any Joseph. He died before I came here, and I don't care about his family. Let's make them slaves and have them do our work. We need a lot of construction workers for our big building projects.

Because they are the family of Joseph, who used to be the Prime Minister.



Later . . .

There are too many Hebrews. Soon there will be more of them than there are of us, and they will not want to be slaves any more. They could revolt and kill all of us Egyptians! What should we do?

We could tell the women who help them have their babies that all Hebrew baby boys have to be thrown into the Nile River.

That would thin their population down! Good idea. I will make it a law right away.



Later . . .

After killing an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, Moses had to run away from Egypt. Someone else became the next pharaoh. Moses spent many years in the wilderness as a shepherd. He learned the area well, and knew how to find water and food in the desert. Finally God called him back to Egypt, because God chose him to lead the Hebrews out of slavery back to the land they had left many years before.

When Moses' mother hid him as a baby, do you think she understood that God had a plan for his life?

When Moses went to the palace to live with the princess do you think he understood that it was part of God's plan?

How about when he had to leave Egypt and become a shepherd. Do you think he understood then?

Probably not. But God knew that whoever led the Israelites out of Egypt would need to know how to be a leader. He would need to know how to shepherd a large group of people, and how to live in the desert. God had not forgotten Moses during his hard times. It was all part of God's plan.



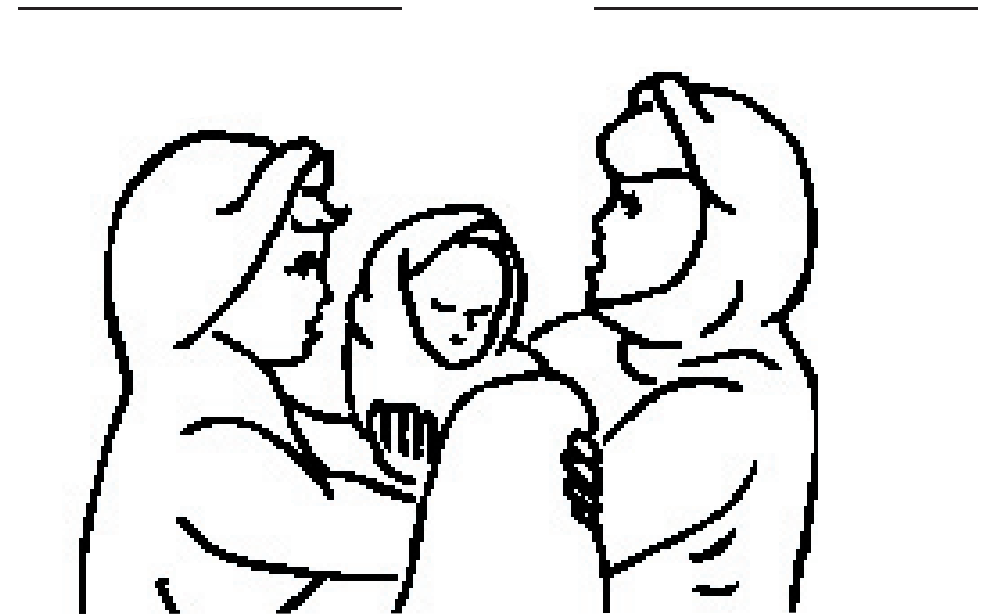
So little Moses, born a slave, was raised as a prince of Egypt. But his own mother cared for him, teaching him how to worship the true God and be His friend. Living in the palace with his Egyptian mother, he was trained to be the next pharaoh. He learned how to lead armies, and how to run a country. While he was learning all about the life of Egyptian royalty, he never forgot that he was a Hebrew and that God was his friend.



It was a sad time for the Israelites. The Bible tells the story of two very brave women. You can read about them in Exodus 1:15-20.



Write their names on the blanks below.



Even though life was hard, the Israelite* slaves looked forward to the coming deliverer who would lead them out of Egypt and back to the land where Abraham and Isaac and Jacob had lived.

**Sometimes they were called Hebrews, Children of Israel or Israelites, and sometimes Jews.*

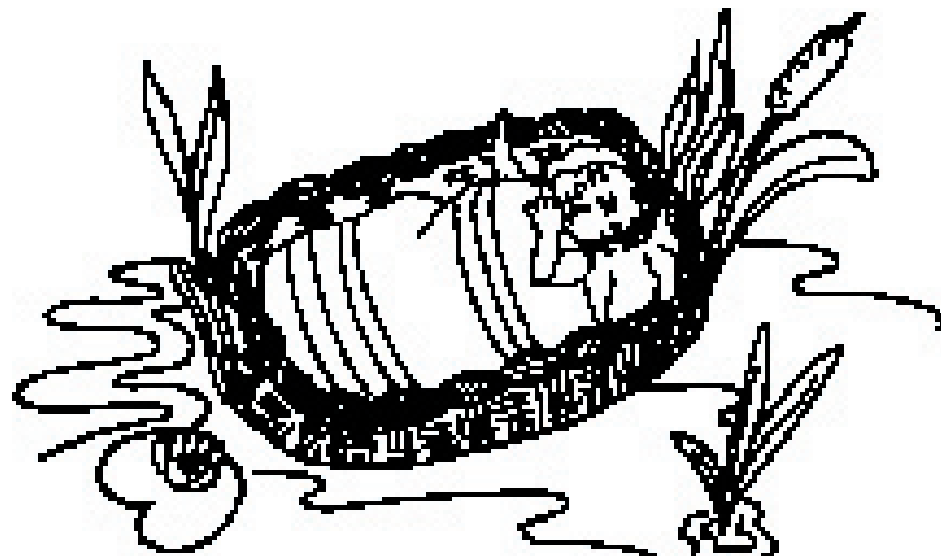


When Baby Moses was born his mother hid him for three months. Why do you think it would be hard to hide a baby?

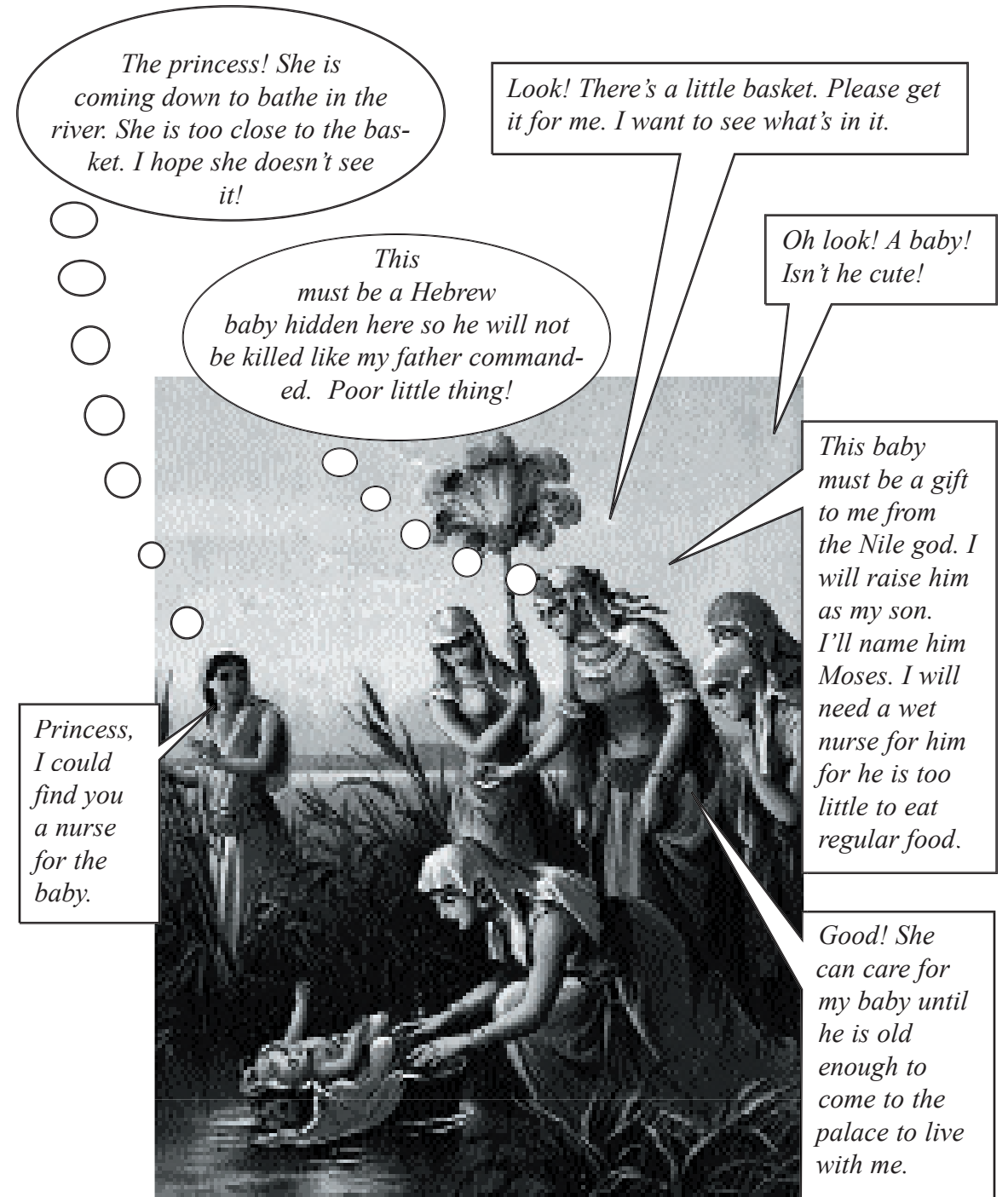
Moses got so noisy and wiggly that it was impossible to keep him a secret much longer. What could they do?

Jochobed, Moses' mother, did as Pharaoh had commanded. She put Baby Moses in the Nile River. But she put him in a basket first. The basket was sealed with pitch so it would not leak. Moses' sister, Miriam, was to watch the basket to make sure it stayed among the reeds and did not float away, or get attacked by crocodiles or capsized by a hippopotamus.

One day . . .



*You can read this story in
Exodus 2:1-10.*



*Princess,
I could
find you
a nurse
for the
baby.*

*The princess! She is
coming down to bathe in the
river. She is too close to the bas-
ket. I hope she doesn't see
it!*

*Look! There's a little basket. Please get
it for me. I want to see what's in it.*

*This
must be a Hebrew
baby hidden here so he will not
be killed like my father command-
ed. Poor little thing!*

*Oh look! A baby!
Isn't he cute!*

*This baby
must be a gift
to me from
the Nile god. I
will raise him
as my son.
I'll name him
Moses. I will
need a wet
nurse for him
for he is too
little to eat
regular food.*

*Good! She
can care for
my baby until
he is old
enough to
come to the
palace to live
with me.*