

MY FELT STORY

Exodus

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SLAVES TO PHAROAH

A long time ago, in the land of Egypt, there ruled a king named Pharaoh. Pharaoh wanted the Jewish People to build big cities for him. At first, he paid them money to do work. But after a while, Pharaoh stopped paying the Jewish People and started giving them very hard work and no rest. They became his slaves!

Jewish man: "This brick is so heavy! I'm so tired! I want to go and rest."

[SONG #1]

Most of the Jewish people were discouraged and felt sad with how difficult their lives had become. But there was a Jewish girl named Miriam, who believed that there would come a day when the Jewish People would be free. She encouraged her friends and never gave up hope.

BABY MOSHE

King Pharaoh's astrologers saw in the stars that a baby boy would be born and when he grew up, he would free the Jewish People. Pharaoh did not want this to happen. He needed the slaves to do all of his work. Pharaoh made a mean decree that all Jewish baby boys must be thrown into the Nile River.

Pharaoh called Yocheved and Miriam to his palace. They were the Jewish midwives. A midwife is someone who helps a Mommy have a baby. Pharaoh told them of his plan. Do you think Yocheved and Miriam liked Pharaoh's plan? They didn't!

Even though Miriam was just a little girl, she said in a strong voice, "No Pharaoh! That's a horrible idea. I will not listen to you!"

Yocheved and Miriam didn't listen to Pharaoh and continued helping the Jewish Mommies have babies. One day Yocheved, gave birth to a little baby boy. As soon as he was born, the house was filled with a special light. It was hard for Yocheved to hide her baby from Pharaoh and his men who kept looking for newborn Jewish boys. In order to keep the baby from harm, Yocheved put her baby inside a basket and placed it on the Nile River by the reeds. Miriam was the baby's big sister. She stayed and watched her baby brother to make sure he would be safe.

It was a hot day and Princess Batya came to take a swim in the cool waters of the Nile River. Suddenly she heard a baby crying. She looked and saw a basket with a baby inside. Batya stretched her hand to draw the basket out from the water. She took the baby out of the basket and named him Moshe. She hugged the baby and rocked him, but the baby continued to cry. He was hungry and he wouldn't eat from any of the Egyptian nurses.

Miriam was watching and came over to the princess. "I can find you a Jewish nurse to feed this baby."

"That's a great idea!" said Princess Batya.

Miriam quickly took the Princess to her mother. "This is a very experienced nurse. She can feed this baby and take care of him."

Yocheved took her baby from Princess Batya and held him tight. Baby Moshe stopped crying. He was happy to be with his Mommy, and Yocheved was delighted to be with her baby again.

When Moshe got old enough, he was taken to the palace to live. Princess Batya raised him as if he were her own son.

[SONG #2]

Meanwhile, the Jewish people were still slaves to Pharaoh and worked very hard. When Moshe went out and saw the Jewish people suffering, he felt very sad. He wanted to help them, and convinced Pharaoh to give them a day of rest so they could gather their energy.

BURNING BUSH

One day Moshe saw an Egyptian hitting a Jewish slave. This made Moshe very angry. He told the Egyptian to stop. The Egyptian got Moshe in trouble and Moshe had to leave Egypt.

He traveled all the way to Midyan where he became a shepherd. A shepherd is someone who looks after sheep. Moshe was a kind and caring shepherd. He made sure the sheep were safe and had enough to eat and drink.

One day a little baby sheep started to wander away. Moshe followed the sheep to see where it would go. The sheep ran all the way to a river to drink.

“You are thirsty,” said Moshe and let the sheep drink as much as he needed. He began to carry the tired sheep back to the flock. But on the way he stopped to notice something very interesting...

Moshe saw a bush on fire, but it wasn't burning up! He came closer and was surprised when he heard Hashem's voice.

“Moshe, I hear the prayers of the Jewish People in Egypt. I understand that they are in much pain. I want you to go to Pharaoh and tell him that he must let the Jewish people go.”

“Me?” asked Moshe. “I don't think I can do that.”

“Yes you, Moshe,” said Hashem. “I see how you love and care for the sheep in your flock. You will be an excellent leader. I chose you.”

“But Pharaoh won't listen to me,” said Moshe

“I will be with you,” said Hashem. “Do not be afraid.”

10 PLAGUES

Moshe used all his courage to go to Pharaoh.

He said to Pharaoh, “Hashem has sent me to you. He sees how badly you treat the Jewish people who are your slaves. He says you must let His people go!”

Pharaoh said, “Oh no! I will not let them go!”

[SONG #3]

Moshe warned Pharaoh, “If you do not listen to Hashem, He will bring many reminders until you listen.”

Pharaoh did not listen. He did not let the Jewish people go. He did not stop being mean.

Hashem sent many reminders to Pharaoh. First the water turned to blood. It tasted and smelled disgusting. When Pharaoh and the Egyptians got very thirsty, Pharaoh promised to let the Jewish People go if Hashem made the blood go away. But as soon as the blood went away, Pharaoh changed his mind.

Then came frogs. Wherever the Egyptians went, there were slimy, croaking frogs. They came inside the houses and made a lot of noise. [SONG #4] Pharaoh didn't like it and promised to let the Jewish people go if Moshe would make the frogs go away. But as soon as the frogs went away, Pharaoh changed his mind again!

Hashem had to remind King Pharaoh ten times until he finally told Moshe, “This time I will really let the Jewish people go!”

And he did.

LEAVING EGYPT

The Jewish people hurried to pack their bags. They were so excited to be going out of Egypt that they didn't have time to bake their bread that morning. They placed the raw dough inside their bags and started traveling. The sun was so hot that it baked the dough right on their backs before it had time to rise. It turned into Matzah!

SPLITTING OF THE SEA

The Jewish People were traveling with Moshe, when all of the sudden they saw a big ocean.

"Oh no! What are we going to do?" The Jewish People felt stuck.

They asked Hashem for help. Hashem split the water so they could go through on dry land. A miracle!

They were free! Their hearts were full of joy as they sang and danced to express their gratitude and thanks to Hashem. And Miriam, who was not a little girl anymore, sang her own special song with the tambourine she had made to thank Hashem for making her dream come true.

EXODUS SONGS:

SONG #1 BANG YOUR HAMMERS

Bang, bang, bang, hold your hammers low.

Bang, bang, bang, give a heavy blow.

For it's work, work, work, every day and every night.

For it's work, work, work, when it's dark and when it's light.

Dig, dig, dig, dig your shovels deep.

Dig, dig, dig, there's no time to sleep.

For it's work, work, work, every day and every night,

For it's work, work, work, when it's dark and when it's light.

SONG #2 BABY MOSHE

Where is Baby Moshe, Moshe, Moshe?

Where is Baby Moshe? He's in the River Nile.

He's floating in a basket, a basket, a basket.

He's floating in a basket, in the River Nile.

The princess she is swimming, swimming, swimming.

The princess she is swimming, in the River Nile.

She sees Baby Moshe, Moshe, Moshe.

She sees Baby Moshe in the River Nile.

She takes him to the palace, palace, palace.

She takes him to the palace by the River Nile.

SONG #3 LISTEN KING PHARAOH

(Shirley Cohen)

Oh listen, oh listen Oh listen King Pharaoh!

Oh listen, oh listen Please let my people go.

They want to go away,

They work too hard all day.

King Pharaoh, King Pharaoh,

What do you say?

"No, No, No. I will not let them go."

"No, No, No. He will not let them go."

SONG #4 THE FROG SONG

(Shirley Cohen)

One morning when Pharaoh awoke in his bed

There were frogs in his bed and frogs on his head

Frogs on his nose and frogs on his toes

Frogs here, frogs there

Frogs were jumping everywhere!

SONG #5 GOING OUT OF Egypt

(Morah Music)

(Words slightly altered from original song:)

Jewish People we are going out of Egypt! X 3

Say YES! Hashem we are ready!

So tap a little boy and take him out of Egypt,

Tap a little girl and take her out of Egypt,

Tap another friend and take them out of Egypt.

Say YES! Hashem we are ready!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What does it mean to be a slave?

Have children load their backpacks with heavy blocks and transport them to another room to build a huge pyramid. Adults serve as taskmasters telling the slaves that they need to finish before they can stop for a snack. After the experience discuss, "How did feel to be a slave?"

Define: Slaves lose their freedom to decide.

2. Miriam told Pharaoh that she didn't like his idea. Why do you think Miriam was brave to say that to Pharaoh?
When can you be brave like Miriam?

When you share an opinion that is different to your friends. When you say, 'no' even if the other person wouldn't like to hear that.

3. What did Miriam do to help her baby brother Moshe?

Why did she do this? If you see friends or family members in trouble, what can you do to help them? For example: pretend you are on the playground and you see someone crying and there is no one else around them, what could you do? Find out why the person is crying, get a grown-up or teacher, offer to play with them, offer to give them a hug, ignore them, tell on them, etc.

4. Pharaoh kept changing his mind every time he said he would let the Jewish people go. Why do you think it's important to keep your word?

5. Why did Miriam make a tambourine in Mitzrayim? She had hope and trusted in Hashem. What does hope & trust mean? Why do you think Miriam needed to be hopeful in Mitzrayim? Have you ever been hopeful about something? When do you trust in Hashem?