

Gospel Light



Preschool

Sunday School Curriculum



*Xu Xu experiences the story of finding
Baby Moses in the river in Lesson 1.*

Teacher Guide • Preschool • Fall A

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Distribute copies of *Preschool Music #1* CD to students.

For additional teaching resources, visit www.gospellight.com.

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Gospel Light Sunday School Curriculum

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Baby in a Basket

Fall • Lesson 1

Who?

Baby Moses, Miriam, Moses' mother, Egyptian princess

What?

God gave Moses a family to care for him (Exodus 1:8—2:10)

When & Where?

While God's people, the Israelites, were slaves in Egypt

Why?

To help children feel a sense of security because of God's care for them

Teacher Challenge

Read Exodus 1:8—2:10.

How can this story make a difference in your own life and in the lives of the children you teach?

Pharaoh had ordered all Hebrew baby boys to be thrown into the Nile River. Moses' parents had to risk losing their baby or see him die. So they put him in the Nile, in a waterproof basket, trusting God to do something miraculous. God honored their faith! He protected Moses and used him mightily. Now think about your own life.



Goals For each child

- 1 Tell that Moses' mother cared for him by keeping him safe**
- 2 Name a person who cares for him or her**
- 3 Thank God for someone who cares for him or her**

- In what ways have you seen God care for you and protect you? What purpose or plans might God have for you?
- Take time to praise God for His protection and care in your own life.

The children in your class are not yet ready to discuss God's purpose for their individual lives. But it is critical that they learn the amazing and foundational truths that God cares for every aspect of their lives and that they can trust God's loving care, no matter what happens. As you pray for the children in your class or small group this week, ask God to help them come to know and accept His great love.

Bible Verse

"God cares about you."

(See 1 Peter 5:7.)

Prepare

Fall • Lesson 1

1 Play to Learn

20 • 30 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children in one or more activities

Game Center
Look in baskets to find a hidden baby doll, and talk about the people who cared for baby Moses
Materials: Bible, baby doll, three baskets, three blankets

Art Center
Color a river mural and talk about ways Moses' family cared for him
Materials: Bible, large sheet of butcher paper, markers, crayons

Dramatic Play Center
Act out ways families care for their babies
Materials: Bible, baby dolls, bottles, blankets, doll clothing

Blocks Center
Build a house and identify people who care for them
Materials: Bible, masking tape, blocks, toy people

2 Listen to Learn

10 • 15 minutes

One teacher leads this large-group time to guide children in hearing and understanding the Bible story and Bible verse

Come Together
Materials: Ball

Bible Verse
Materials: Bible, Bible Verse Poster 1 from *Visual Resources*

Prayer
Materials: None

Song
Materials: *Preschool Music #1* CD and player

Puppet Time
Materials: Buddy puppet, grocery bag containing an empty dog food bowl and a picture of several dogs with a cat

Bible Story
Materials: Bible, Figures 1-6 from *Visual Resources*, flashlight, flannel board

3 Talk to Learn

15 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children to complete *TalkTime* activity page and other activities as time allows

TalkTime Activity Page
Materials: Bible, Lesson 1 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, crayons or markers

Bible Story Game
Materials: Bible, Large piece of blue fabric, basket



- On *Preschool Music #1* CD, play “Come On In!” (track 1) as children arrive and “Are You Ready?” (track 15) during cleanup time.

2

Check off one
or more options for
each step of the lesson

Game Center



Collect

Bible, baby doll, three baskets, three blankets.

Do

Invite children to cover their eyes while you put the doll in one of the baskets and cover each basket with a separate blanket. Children then open their eyes and take turns

looking under the blankets to find the doll.

Teaching Tip

Don't worry if children don't cover their eyes completely. They aren't trying to cheat—they are just curious and eager to play the game.

Art Center

Collect

Bible, large sheet of butcher paper, markers, crayons.

Prepare

Cover a table with butcher paper. Draw the outline of a river on the paper.

Do

Children color river with markers or crayons. As children express interest, briefly tell the Bible story and draw a simple basket in the river. Children color the basket as well.



Teaching Tip

Children use glue sticks to add scraps of blue paper to the river.

Talk About

- **Today in our Bible story, we'll hear about a mother who made a basket for her baby to sleep in. The mother wanted to keep her baby safe.**
- **What do you think the baby's family did when the baby was hungry? When he was tired? When he was cold?**
- **God gave this baby a mother and a sister to care for him. God gives you people to care for you, too. Refer to open Bible. The Bible says, "God cares about you."**
- **Who takes care of you at home? Pray with individual children. Thank You, God, for Alex's mommy.**

Tip for Younger Children

Provide additional dolls. Children put dolls in baskets and use blankets to play Peekaboo with dolls.

Tip for Younger Children

Give each child his or her own paper to draw on. Children scribble to represent a river. As children show interest, print children's descriptions of their drawings on their papers.

Dramatic Play Center

Collect

Bible, baby dolls, bottles, blankets, doll clothing.

Do

Guide children to act out ways families care for their babies. Suggest children feed, rock and dress dolls and place dolls in baskets.



Teaching Tip

If your room does not have an area designated as the Dramatic Play Center with child-sized rocking chairs and other furniture, simply provide the suggested materials on a blanket spread on the floor. You may also borrow some of these items from other preschool rooms or ask families whose children have outgrown play furniture to donate items.

Blocks Center

Collect

Bible, masking tape, blocks, toy people.

Prepare

Use masking tape to outline a house shape on the floor.

Do

Children stack blocks on masking-tape outline to build a house. Children play with toy people and talk about things they do at home and people who care for them.



Teaching Tips

1. Provide toy furniture and scraps of material

for children to use in decorating the house they build.

2. Encourage older children to build their own houses.

Talk About

- Show your Bible open to 1 Peter 5:7. **“God cares about you” is what the Bible says. One way God cares for you is by giving you a place to live and people to care for you.**
- **Who are the people God made in your family?**
- **What are some things your dad does to take care of you? Your big sister?**
- **Who reads you stories? Who helps you learn new things?**
- **Pray, Thank You, God, for loving Olivia. Thank You for making her family.**

Tip for Younger Children

Provide plenty of dolls so that children do not have to share.

Tip for Younger Children

Invite a child to sit on the floor while you and other children use blocks to build a two-block high “house” around the child. Child knocks the walls down when he or she is ready. Repeat with other children.

Collect

Bible, Bible Verse Poster 1 and Figures 1-6 from *Visual Resources, Pre-school Music #1* CD and player, Buddy puppet, ball, grocery bag containing an empty dog food bowl, a picture of several dogs with a cat, basket, flannel board; optional—*God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.

Come Together

Begin this activity as the first children come to the area. Children sit in a circle. Roll a ball to a child as you say his or her name. Ask the child to roll the ball back to you. Continue in the same manner until every child has had a chance to roll the ball back.

Tip for Younger Children

Have additional balls available in case a child is unwilling to roll the ball back to you.

Bible Verse

Show Bible Verse Poster 1. **I see someone in this picture helping another person.** Invite a volunteer to point to person in the picture. **God cares about us. He gives us people to help us and to take care of us. I'm really glad that God gave me a grandma to care for me.** Open your Bible to 1 Peter 5:7. **The Bible says, "God cares about you."** Children repeat verse several times.



Prayer

Because God cares for us, He gives us people to help us. Pray with children. **Dear God, thank You for caring for us. Thank You for giving us families who care for us. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Song

Play "God Cares About You" (track 2 on CD) several times, inviting children to sing along with you. Children look at someone else each time they hear the word "you."



Puppet Time

Use Buddy puppet and a grocery bag containing an empty dog food bowl and a picture of several dogs with a cat to perform the puppet script on the last page of this lesson.

Bible Story

Show basket and Figures 1-6 as you tell the Bible story on the next page.

Introduction

Show basket. **If this were your basket, what would you put in it?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear a true story from the Bible about what a mother put into her basket.** (Hold Bible open to Exodus 1 as you tell the story.)



A Baby Is Born

The Bible tells us about a special family. There were five people in this family. This family had a father, a mother, a big sister, a big brother and a baby brother. The baby's name was Moses.

Moses' family loved him very much. Moses' mother probably said, "We must take good care of our baby." And they did.

Every day they fed baby Moses. Every day they wrapped baby Moses in soft blankets. Every day they played with baby Moses. God planned for Moses to have a family to care for him.

But not everyone wanted to care for Moses. A mean king wanted to hurt Moses. Moses' family must have thought, *How can we keep our baby safe from the mean king?*

God helped Moses' mother plan a way to keep her baby safe.

The Baby Is Hidden

Moses' mother made a special basket. She put soft blankets in the basket. Then she carefully laid Moses in the basket. Moses' mother carried the basket with Moses in it to the river. She put the basket on top of the water.

Moses' big sister stayed with the basket and watched over Moses.

The Baby Is Found

The king's daughter came to the river. The king's daughter wasn't mean. She was kind. She saw the basket.

When the king's daughter opened the basket, she found Moses crying. She felt sorry for Moses. "This baby needs someone to care for him," she said.

The Baby Is Cared For

Moses' big sister heard this. She went to the king's daughter. "I will go get someone to care for the baby," Moses' big sister said. Then she ran to get Moses' mother.

Moses' mother took good care of him. The king's daughter made sure the mean king did not hurt the baby. Moses' family was glad God had helped them keep their baby safe.

Conclusion

God planned for Moses' family—and the princess—to keep baby Moses safe. God gives people to love and take care of you, too. It's one way God shows how much He cares for us. The Bible says, "God cares about you." (Optional: Review story by using pages 96-101 in *God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.)

Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

Each child pretends to hold a baby. Tell the story and guide children to act out caring for the baby and pretending to keep the baby from crying.

TalkTime Activity Page

Collect

Bible, Lesson 1 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, markers or crayons.

Do

Distribute *TalkTime* activity page and sticker pages, and markers or crayons. Demonstrate how to complete the page. Then as children complete their own page, talk about the items on the page.



Bible Story Game

Collect

Large piece of blue fabric, basket.

Do

Children hold the edges of the fabric and shake the fabric to make it look like water. Place basket in the center of the fabric. Children make the basket gently “float” on the “water.”



Talk About

- Who took care of baby Moses?
- Kelly, point to someone else who helped care for Moses. God cared about Moses, so He gave Moses people to take care of him.
- God gave you the people you live with to take care of you.
- Who takes care of you? How?
- The Bible says, “God cares about you.” God gives you people to take care of you. We can say, “Thank You, God, for my family.”

Family FunTime Page

Show page 1 of *Family FunTime*, review conversation suggestions and give to children to take home.

Music Fun

During transition times, invite children to sing along as they listen to “God Cares About You” (track 2), “Come On In!” (track 1) and/or “Wave Good-Bye” (track 14) on *Preschool Music #1 CD*.

Puppet Script

Fall • Lesson 1

It's in the Bag

(Note: Play both parts, changing your voice for the puppet.
Or you may have a helper play one of the parts.)

Leader: Hi, Buddy! What's in your bag?

Buddy: Important things. Can I show you?

Leader: Kids, would you like to see what Buddy has in his bag?
(Pauses to allow children to respond.) Sounds like we would all like to see what you have, Buddy.

Buddy: OK. Um. (Picks up a bowl from bag and then tries to talk while holding bowl in mouth.) Here's my bowl.

Leader: (Looking confused.) What? I can't understand you.

Buddy: (Puts down bowl, clears throat and then speaks clearly.) Here's my bowl.

Leader: Oh! Your food bowl! Did you know that God made good food for us to eat?

Buddy: Um. And it smells good!

Leader: (Sniffing bowl and making a face.) It smells like dog food!

Buddy: My favorite! I like to use my nose.

Leader: Yes, God made noses and eyes and ears and everything else!
What else do you have?

Buddy: Um. (Picks up picture from bag and then tries to talk while holding picture with mouth.) Here's a picture of my family.

Leader: (Looking confused.) What? I can't understand you.

Buddy: (Puts down picture, clears throat and then speaks clearly.) Here's a picture of my family.

Leader: Of course it is! There's your mom and brother and brother and . . . wait . . . that's a cat!

Buddy: She's a friend of the family.

Leader: That's great! God gives us family and friends who love us and take good care of us.

Buddy: Wow!

Leader: Thanks for reminding us about God's love and care for us, Buddy!



Play, Listen and Talk Together

What to Expect and Do

Young children do not think like adults do. In fact, preschool children's intuitive thinking differs from the more logical thought of school-age children.

This difference, not only in thinking, but in all areas of development, has profound implications for the way we teach young children. Their minds and bodies are still developing. Because they can walk and talk and do many things on their own, we may be tempted to think they are capable of more than is reasonable to expect, in both their thinking and in their behavior.

Young children learn by doing, not sitting. Play is their work. Have two or more Play activities ready and let children choose which activities to participate in. Use the Talk About conversation ideas in every lesson to link the Bible truths to the child's activity. When we connect Bible truths to things children are involved in doing, the words take on meaning and become connected with the actions.

As you teach and interact with children, follow Jesus' example.

When Jesus was around little children, He loved them; He didn't lecture them. Actions speak more than words ever could. Play with the children. Listen to them. Talk with them. You are the living example of God's love to each little child!



Guiding a Child Toward Jesus

When we have presented Jesus by both our actions and our words, a foundation is laid for a child to receive Christ as Savior. Every lesson may create an opportunity to talk with a young child who wants to know more about Jesus.

- The young child is easily attracted to Jesus. Jesus is a warm, sympathetic person who obviously likes children, and children readily like Him. These early perceptions prepare the foundation for the child to receive Christ as Savior and to desire to follow His example in godly living. While some children at this age level (especially from Christian homes) may indeed pray to become a member of God's family, accepting Jesus as their Savior, expect wide variation in children's readiness for this important step. Allow the Holy Spirit room to work within His own timetable.
- Talk individually with children. Something as important as a child's personal relationship with Jesus Christ can be handled more effectively alone than in a group. Ask questions that will help you determine what the child understands. Open-ended what-do-you-think questions give you a chance to hear what's really going on in the child's mind and heart.
- Talk simply. Phrases such as "born again" or "Jesus in my heart" are symbolic and far beyond a young child's understanding. Focus on how God makes people a part of His family: **God loves us, but we have done wrong things (sinned). God says sin must be punished. God sent Jesus to take the punishment for the wrong things we have done. We can tell God that we have done wrong and tell Him we are sorry for our sin. We can ask Jesus to be our Savior. Then we become a part of God's family.**