

# Unit 1. Children of the Bible - OT

## Lesson 1.3: Miriam the Bold

### Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

#### Bible Story:

Exodus 2:1-10

The story is adapted from Hyde, Katherine Bolger. *Brave, Faithful, and True: Children of the Bible*. Ancient Faith Publishing, 2023.

#### Activities:

\*Implement based on available time. Detailed instructions and materials list are provided in the lesson.

**Activity:** Basket Boat Making

#### Words of the Week:

քաջ - kach - brave

զորաւոր - zor-a-vor - strong

տապանակ - da-ba-nag - ark, little boat

#### Objective:

Understand that God wants us to be courageous and speak out to help others, even when we are scared, just like young Miriam did when she boldly confronted the princess to save her baby brother Moses.

#### Moral Character Focus:

**Knowledge:** Children will learn that Miriam was faithful to God by bravely watching over baby Moses and speaking up to save him

**Understanding:** Children will recognize that God gives us courage to do the right thing even when we feel scared

**Application:** Children will identify practical ways to be brave helpers in their daily lives (standing up for others, asking for help when someone is in trouble, speaking kindly to new people)

**Values:** Children will develop a desire to be bold and courageous when others need their help

#### Memory Verse:

**“Be strong and brave!”**

**- Joshua 1:9**

# Lesson

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## Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

Open with prayer:

**Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.**

## Lesson Body: Miriam the Bold

You may have heard the story of Moses, how God saved him and made him someone very important, who later led his people out of Egypt. But there is someone else who was also very important in this story. A little girl named Miriam. She had a big, brave heart even though she was still a child!

Moses was Miriam's baby brother. He was tiny and sweet, but there was a BIG problem! The mean pharaoh said, "No Hebrew baby boys are allowed!" The king wanted to hurt all the baby boys!

Moses' mommy was very scared. "What can we do?" she cried. "How can we keep our baby safe?"

Little Miriam was worried too. She prayed and prayed. Then God gave her a brave idea! "We must make a special boat, small little ark, for the baby Moses and let him go down the river! The waters will take him far away from here, and good people will find him and keep him safe," she said.

So Mommy and Miriam worked together. They got a big basket and made it into a safe, floating cradle for baby Moses. They covered it with sticky tar so that no water could get in. They stuffed the basket with soft hay. They swaddled Moses and carefully put him in the cradle. "This will keep him safe!" said brave Miriam.

In the early morning, Miriam and her mom went quietly to the river. When they arrived, the sun was starting to rise. Baby Moses woke up and was getting restless. Mommy kissed her sweet boy goodbye and gently placed the basket where the tall grass grew. Whoosh, whoosh went the grass in the wind, and baby Moses fell back asleep! But someone needed to watch over him.

"I'll hide and watch!" said brave Miriam.

Little Miriam hid behind the tall grass. She was very quiet - shhh! The gentle water rocked the basket softly as she watched and waited. Her heart went thump, thump, thump! But she stayed brave!

Soon, Miriam heard footsteps coming closer and closer. Step, step, step on the sandy riverbank! Her heart beat even faster - thump, thump, THUMP! Who could it be?

Through the tall grass, Miriam saw beautiful sandals and a flowing dress. It was the princess - the pharaoh's own daughter! The same pharaoh who wanted to hurt Hebrew babies!

The princess walked gracefully to the water's edge. When she saw the little basket floating among the reeds, she stopped and tilted her head. "Oh my!" she said softly. "What's this?"

She reached down carefully and lifted the basket from the water. As she opened it, her eyes grew wide with wonder. There was baby Moses, looking up at her with his big, sweet eyes!

"Awww, what a precious baby!" the princess whispered, her voice full of love. She gently touched his tiny hand. But then her face changed. She looked worried and sad. "Oh dear," she said quietly. "This must be a Hebrew baby. My father's soldiers are looking for babies like this one." She held him closer. "But how can I let anything happen to someone so small and helpless?"

Hidden in the grass, little Miriam's mind was racing! 'The princess likes baby Moses!' she thought. 'She wants to help him! But what if she doesn't know how to take care of a baby? What if she gives him to the wrong people?'

This was Miriam's big moment! Her whole body was shaking now - shake, shake, shake! She could have stayed hidden in the tall grass where it was safe. She could have watched quietly and hoped for the best. But baby Moses needed her help RIGHT NOW!

Miriam remembered her prayer from that morning: "God, please keep Moses safe." Suddenly, she felt strength fill her heart! 'God wants me to help!' she thought.

Taking the biggest, bravest breath of her whole life, little Miriam jumped out from behind the tall grass!

The princess was so surprised! "Oh!" she gasped, stepping back.

But brave Miriam's little legs were already running - pitter patter, pitter patter across the sand! Her heart was pounding, but her voice was clear and strong!

"Excuse me, Princess!" she called out, stopping right in front of the most important woman in all of Egypt. "I saw you found that sweet baby! Would you like me to find someone to help take care of him? I know just the right person - someone who loves babies very much and knows exactly how to feed them and keep them happy!"

The princess looked down at this bold little girl with amazement. Nobody ever ran up to talk to her like this! But there was something special about Miriam's brave, caring heart that made the princess smile.

"Why, yes!" said the princess, her eyes lighting up. "That would be wonderful! I want to keep this baby safe, but I don't know how to care for such a little one. Do you really know someone who could help?"

"Oh yes!" said Miriam, practically bouncing with excitement. "Wait right here! I'll bring her to you!"

And off she ran - pitter patter, pitter patter - faster than she had ever run in her whole life! Through the grass, across the fields, all the way back home!

"Mommy! Mommy!" she called, bursting through the door. "Come quick! The princess found Moses and she wants to keep him safe! She needs someone to take care of him! God answered our prayers!"

Mommy could hardly believe it! Together, they hurried back to the river where the princess was waiting, gently rocking baby Moses in her arms.

"Here she is!" announced Miriam proudly. "This is the very best person to take care of babies in all the land!"

The princess smiled at Mommy. "Would you be willing to help me care for this precious child? I will pay you well, and he can stay safe in my protection."

Mommy's eyes filled with happy tears. "Oh yes, your highness! I would be honored!"

And do you know what happened? The princess hired Mommy to take care of her own baby! Baby Moses got to come home with his real family! The mean king couldn't hurt him because the princess was protecting him! And it was all because one little girl was brave enough to speak up when it mattered most!

Little Miriam's boldness didn't just save her baby brother - it brought their whole family back together! She had been scared, but she didn't let fear stop her from doing what was right. God used her brave heart to work a miracle!

## Bible Verse Game to Remember

"Be strong and brave!"  
- Joshua 1:9

Let's say it together with actions:

"Be strong" (flex your muscles)  
"and brave!" (stand tall like a superhero)



Words of the Week:

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Memory Verse:

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## Activity: Basket Boat Making

**A Note to Consider:** As children create and test their basket boats, emphasize how God protected baby Moses just like He protects us today. Point out how Miriam’s whole family worked together - mommy, daddy, and big sister - to keep baby Moses safe, just like our families work together to take care of each other. Help children see that God can use simple, everyday things like a basket to do amazing, important work, reminding them that He can use them too, no matter how small they are!

### Materials Needed:

- Small paper plates (1 per child) OR squares of aluminum foil
- Clear packing tape or waterproof stickers
- Cotton balls (3-4 per child)
- Small baby dolls, toy figures, or wrapped candies to represent “baby Moses”
- Large clear container, water table, or several large bowls
- Towels for cleanup
- Optional: brown construction paper strips for “reeds”

### Instructions:

1. Give each child a paper plate.
2. Show children how to gently curve up the edges to make the sides.
3. Help children apply strips of clear tape around the edges and bottom of their plate to waterproof it, similar to using “sticky tar” (for younger children, pre-cut tape pieces and let them stick them on).
4. Give each child 3-4 cotton balls.
5. Have them place the cotton balls inside their boat as “soft hay”.
6. Let them fluff and arrange the cotton.
7. Give each child a small doll, figure, or wrapped candy.
8. Have them gently place it in their cotton “nest”.
9. Encourage them to “tuck in” their baby Moses.
10. Fill container(s) with 2-3 inches of water.
11. Let children take turns, gently placing their boats in the water.
12. Encourage gentle movements (no splashing) and watch together as the boats float.



# Review

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## Memory Verse Review:

“Be strong and brave!” (Joshua 1:9)

## Lesson Review:

### Questions:

1. What was Miriam scared of? *(She was scared that something bad would happen to baby Moses, that the pharaoh's soldiers would find him, and that the princess might not know how to take care of him properly)*
2. What did Miriam do when she saw the princess find baby Moses? *(She jumped out from her hiding place and bravely ran to the princess to offer help finding someone to take care of the baby)*
3. Was it scary for little Miriam to talk to the princess? Why was she brave anyway? *(Yes, it was very scary! The princess was the most important woman in Egypt and her father was the mean pharaoh. But Miriam was brave because she loved her baby brother and wanted to help him. She remembered her prayer and felt God giving her strength)*
4. How do you think baby Moses felt when he got to go home? *(He probably felt so happy and safe! He got to be with his real mommy and sister again, and he was warm and loved and protected)*

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## Life Application:

### What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Miriam was just a little girl, but God helped her be brave when she was scared. She loved her baby brother so much that she stepped out and spoke to the princess, even though it was frightening. God used Miriam's courage to keep Moses safe and bring him back to his family. Just like Miriam, we might face things that feel scary (at school, at home, or with friends) but we can pray and ask God to give us strength. When we trust Him, God can use even our small, brave choices to do big, wonderful things.

### Close with prayer:

**O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.**