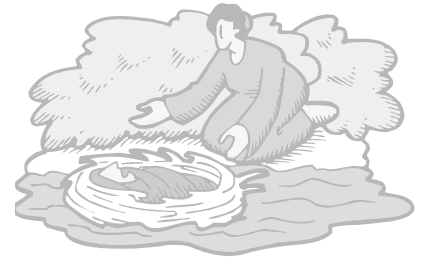


God's Valuable Treasure



Teacher's Thoughts

When Moses was born, his mother, Jochebed, took great risks to protect her child. Pharaoh had declared that all boy babies must be killed. Jochebed refused to obey the command and hid Moses for three months. When she no longer could keep him hidden, she wove a basket, placed Moses inside it and hid it along the Nile River. Pharaoh's daughter found the basket and took compassion on Moses, adopting him into her family. Because of Jochebed's faith, Moses was saved.

Children need to understand early in their lives that they are a treasure to God. Before they were born, God knew them intimately. Psalm 139:13 tells us that God "did form my inward parts, he knit me together in my mother's womb." (AMP) He has a special plan in mind for each child, just as He had for Moses. He deeply values each person. John 3:16 tells of this great love, "For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He gave up His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (AMP) He desires for each child to give his/her heart to Him, becoming a part of His family. He desires to live eternally with each one of us.

Supplies

Obtain & Prepare Before Class

1. PowerPoint CD/DVD
2. Wicker basket
3. Two pounds of cooked spaghetti noodles
4. A clear container for the spaghetti noodles
5. Basket with a baby doll
6. Blue and green construction paper (1 of each color per child)
7. Tape
8. Scissors
9. One apple per child

Provided in the Kit (Optional)

- Treasure chest
- Lock and key
- Pith helmet

The Point

You are a
Treasure
to God!

The Story

Baby Moses
in a Basket
Exodus 2:1-10

The Verse

"The Father has
loved us so much
that we are called
children of God."
I John 3:1
(NCV)



Dr. Jones

(PP) “Good Morning. Allow me to introduce myself. I’m the one and only Dr. Jones, known far and wide for my heart stopping adventures. Maybe you’ve heard of them. No? Surely you have heard about the time I wrestled three crocs to get to the Spanish treasure in the Okefenokee Swamp? Or how about the time I outran an avalanche looking for Noah’s ark? Or the time I faced twenty wild camels while searching for David’s slingshot?”

“Whether or not you have heard of me, you are going to! Fasten your seatbelts, everyone, because you are about to start off on an adventure. We are going to try and discover the secret of the lost keys. Once upon a time, people knew the secret to happiness and success. But somewhere along the way, it has been lost. If we can find the lost keys, they will open up a treasure chest with untold riches inside. Will you help me in this adventure? You must pay close attention. You never know when a clue will escape your notice if you aren’t watching closely. Today is your first challenge as you look for the first lost key. And now I’m off to start the search...”



Puppet Song

(PP) “Your Love Lasts Forever” from Great Big God produced by Vineyard Music, 2001.



Professor Diggs

Supplies: Pith helmet, wicker basket placed in a backpack or satchel

(PP) Good morning fellow adventurers. I am Professor Diggs, archeologist extraordinaire, at your service. I wanted to show you a most interesting find that my team and I uncovered. (Call a child to the front, pull the basket out of the bag and have the child hold it.) We were looking around the Nile River and started digging among the bulrushes. Would you believe what we encountered? Yes, scary snakes, crocodiles, huge beetles and other nasty, creepy, crawly creatures. But we also found this great treasure. It reminded me of a Bible story my mother used to tell me of a baby placed in a basket along the Nile River. Hmm. I will have to find my Bible and read about that story. It was so nice meeting you today. Perhaps I will find more artifacts to present to you for your consideration. Until then, off to the museum to place this in its proper location.

TEACHER TIP

Dr. Diggs does not have to memorize the script word for word. Let the actor develop the character.

Bible Story: Moses in the Basket

Supplies: Blue and green paper (1 sheet of each per child), basket with baby doll wrapped in a blanket



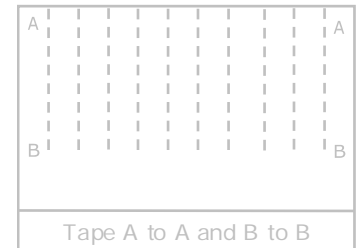
Today our story takes place in Egypt. The Nile River in Egypt is important to our story. So, we are going to make a river to help tell our story. First we need some water in the river. Take your blue sheet of paper and cut long, curvy strips to represent the water.

(PP)

Have children scatter their blue waves across a designated side of the room.

The Nile River had tall stalks of green grass called bulrushes growing along it.

To make the bulrushes, cut strips in your green paper. Leave about 3 to 4 inches uncut at the end of your paper. Form a tube with your paper and tape it together. (See example)



Have children stand their bulrushes along the river.

If I told you there is a treasure hidden in the Nile River, what would you think? Would you be excited? Wonder what it is? Want to be the person to find it?

What are some things that people treasure? Today, we're going to learn about a very special treasure someone found beside the river back in Bible times.

Before we start to tell the story, you need to understand what has been happening. This story takes place in a country called Egypt. Many of you may remember it as a country with pyramids, hieroglyphics, sand and the Sphinx. The Hebrews had come to Egypt many years ago in search of food. They had stayed in Egypt and grew from a family of 70 to hundreds of thousands of people. Over time, the Egyptians had become unfriendly to the Hebrews, making them slaves. They were made to work in the hot sun, making bricks and working in the fields. The king, called Pharaoh, was worried because the Hebrews were increasing in number. So, he made a very wicked law that all boy babies should be killed. This law would make sure that the Hebrews did not get so numerous that they could rise up against the Egyptians. At this point in time is where our story begins.

(PP)

**TEACHER
TIP**

PowerPoint pictures will fade in as you talk about Egypt.

Our story is found in Exodus 2:1-10. (Show the children where in the Bible the story comes from.) I need some volunteers to help me tell the

(PP)

story. Pick volunteers to play the parts of Moses' father, his mother, his sister, the king's daughter, and the servant girls.

Taken from The Amplified Bible:

Now Amram a man of the house of Levi went and took as his wife Jochebed, a daughter of Levi. (Moses' father and mother stand together.)

And the woman became pregnant and bore a son; and when she saw that he was exceedingly beautiful, she hid him three months. (Give Moses' mother a baby wrapped in a blanket.)

And when she could no longer hide him, she took for him an ark or basket made of bulrushes or papyrus daubing it with pitch. Then she put the child in it and laid it among the rushes by the brink of the Nile River. (Have Moses' mother place the basket by the pretend river)

And his sister, Miriam, stood some distance away to learn what would be done with him. (Have Miriam pretend to hide watching the basket.)

Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, and her maidens walked along the bank; she saw the ark among the rushes and sent her maid to fetch it. (Continue to act out these parts as written)

When she opened it, she saw the child and behold, the baby cried. And she took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children!"

Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter. "Shall I go and call a nurse of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

Pharaoh's daughter said to her "Go." And the girl went and called the child's mother.

Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it.

And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. And she called him Moses, for she said, "Because I drew him out of the water."

Thank the actors and actresses for their help with the play and have them sit down in their seats.

Discussion:

Why would it be hard to keep a baby hidden? (Baby cries, makes noises) (PP)

Would it be hard for a mom to put her baby in a basket in the Nile River? (Dangerous animals, not knowing what would happen to it) (PP)

How do you think Pharaoh's daughter felt when she saw the basket with the baby inside? (Curiosity, compassion) (PP)

Did Pharaoh's daughter treat the baby as a treasure she had found? (Yes, cared for the baby, protected the baby) (PP)

Was Moses adopted into Pharaoh's family? (Yes) (PP)

God looks at us as a special treasure. When we decide to follow Jesus, God adopts us into his family just like Moses was adopted into Pharaoh's family. Isn't that such an awesome thing that God thinks of you as being so special?

**TEACHER
TIP**

Divide the children into small groups for the discussion time.

Prayer

Thank God for making each child special. Thank Him for treating each child like the treasure that they are to him. If you feel led, give the children an opportunity to accept Jesus as their personal savior. Thank God for adopting them into His family.

(PP)



Application

Supplies: none

Divide everyone into groups of three. If the group is not divisible by three, you can use four to a group and have kids change roles. Have each group pick two kids to stand back to back and link arms.

The person who is not linked is to try to pull the other two kids apart.

After a few moments, have the kids change places. Do this until everyone has had a chance to try and separate the linked kids.

Why couldn't you pull your friends apart?



This is how God's love is toward us. Romans 8:39 tells us that, "Not anything in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God." (AMP) Sometimes we are really hurting and God's love may seem far away. But during those times, God holds us even tighter. He loves us so much. He hurts with us and wants to just hold us in His arms. Can you think of a tough time you have gone through? Was it hard to feel like God loved you? Sometimes we need to just believe it because we know it is true even when we don't feel it.

(PP)



Dr. Jones Challenge

Supplies: Clear plastic container, spaghetti (cooked), key

Before class, put the cooked spaghetti in the container with the key hidden inside.

Choose 3 children to come up front.

(PP)

Line up the kids in a row. The first one to jump out of the line gets a chance to answer the question.

Question: **What was Moses' sister's name?** (Miriam)

TEACHER TIP

If the children have a hard time finding the key, pulling the spaghetti out of the container will help.

Congratulations _____! You will get to try the challenge first. If you do not find the key, the other two competitors here will have a chance.

Dr. Jones has discovered that the lost key is somewhere in this vat. However, there are really gross worms (cooked spaghetti) in the container. The challenge is to thrust your hand into the vat and try to locate the key. You will have 15 seconds to complete the challenge. If you do not succeed, the next person gets a chance to try.

When the challenge begins, start playing the Raider's theme to set the tone.



Treasure

Supplies: Treasure chest with lock, apples

Before class place the apples in the treasure chest. Children will be given an apple, as they leave the class today, as a reminder that they are a treasure to God.

(PP)

Does anyone know what it means to be the apple of someone's eye? It means that you are very special to them. You are a treasure to them.

Did you ever think that you are an apple of God's eye? In fact, we are so special to Him that He calls us His children. In I John 3:1 it says "The Father has loved us so much that we are called children of God." When you leave today you will get one of these apples to help you remember that you are a treasure to God. . .an apple of His eye.

**TEACHER
TIP**

For small classes, individually tell each child they are the "apple of God's eye" as you give away the apples.



Time stretchers



Craft Activity

Option 1: Treasure Box

Supplies: Boxes (shoeboxes, tall cans with lids, matchboxes, etc.), things to decorate the box (markers, paper, stickers, plastic jewels), glue

You can get plain boxes at a craft store. Or, if you would rather not spend the money, plan ahead and recycle containers such as cereal boxes, potato chip containers, shoe boxes, etc. The craft can be simple or complex depending on your needs.

Let children be creative in making a box to put their treasures.

Option 2: Baby Moses in a Basket

Supplies: Lunch bags, markers, scraps of material, scissors, yarn, tissue paper

Basket:

Cut lunch bags to a height of 2 inches. Using markers, draw horizontal and vertical lines on the bags to make them look like baskets.

Baby Moses:

Wad up some tissue paper into a ball. Take a scrap of material and cover the tissue ball, tying the bottom with yarn. Some material should hang out the bottom, giving the idea of a blanket.

Draw a face on the ball. Place it in the basket.



Memory Verse

Supplies: Copies of paper heart sheet (page 12), crayons, markers or colored pencils, scissors

**“The Father has loved us so much that we are called children of God.”
I John 3:1 (NCV)**

Have the children cut out the paper heart. Older children can write out the verse. Younger children may cut out the verse and glue it on the heart. Have the children draw a picture on the heart of a way that they know God loves them.



Game

Hide the Treasure

Supplies: Treasure such as a small toy or quarter

Take turns hiding the treasure and letting the children find it. Discuss how we are so special to God that He seeks to find us and bring us to him.

Snack

Teddy Graham® Moses



Supplies: Teddy Grahams®, blue fruit strips, graham crackers, one other color of fruit strips, paper plates.

The children will make a snack depicting baby Moses in a basket floating in the Nile.

Take the blue fruit strip (about 4 inches long) and place it in the middle of the plate. Take the other fruit strip (about 2 inches long) and wrap it around the Teddy Graham® like a blanket. Put the wrapped teddy graham (Moses) on the graham cracker (basket) and place it on the blue strip (Nile River). When the children have finished making their snack, let them eat it. You can review the story as they are making the snack.

Dr. Jones

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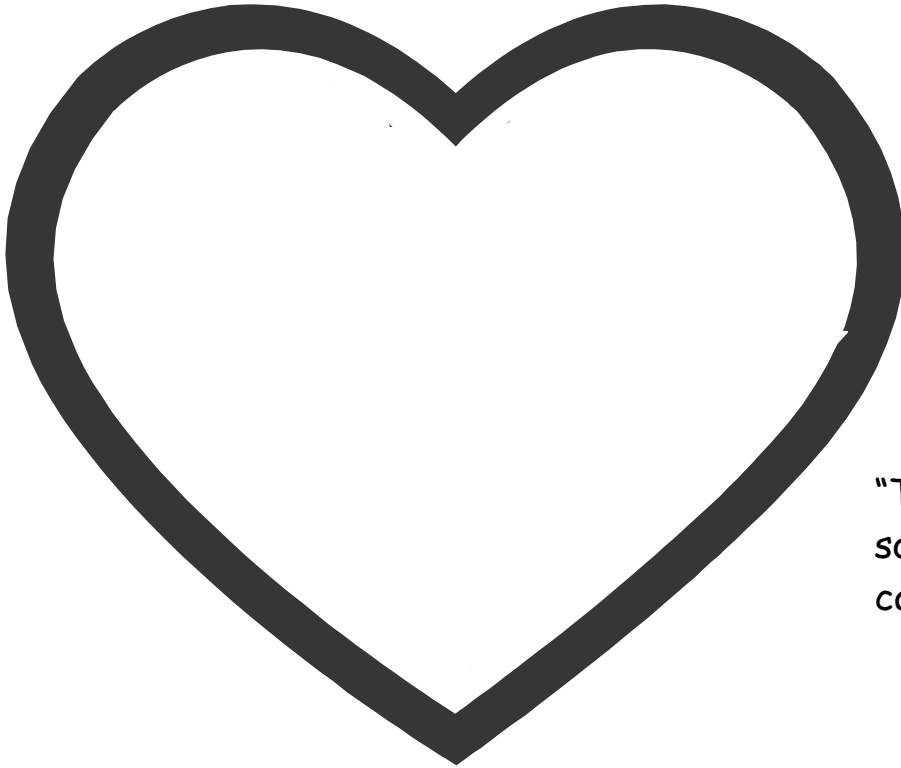
Professor Diggs

Good morning fellow adventurers. I am Professor Diggs, archeologist extraordinaire, at your service. (Introduce more about the character here ad-libbed by actor) I want to show you a most interesting find that my team and I uncovered. (Show basket) We were looking around the Nile River and started digging among the bulrushes. Would you believe what we encountered? Yes, scary snakes, crocodiles, huge beetles and other nasty, creepy, crawly creatures. But we also found this great treasure.

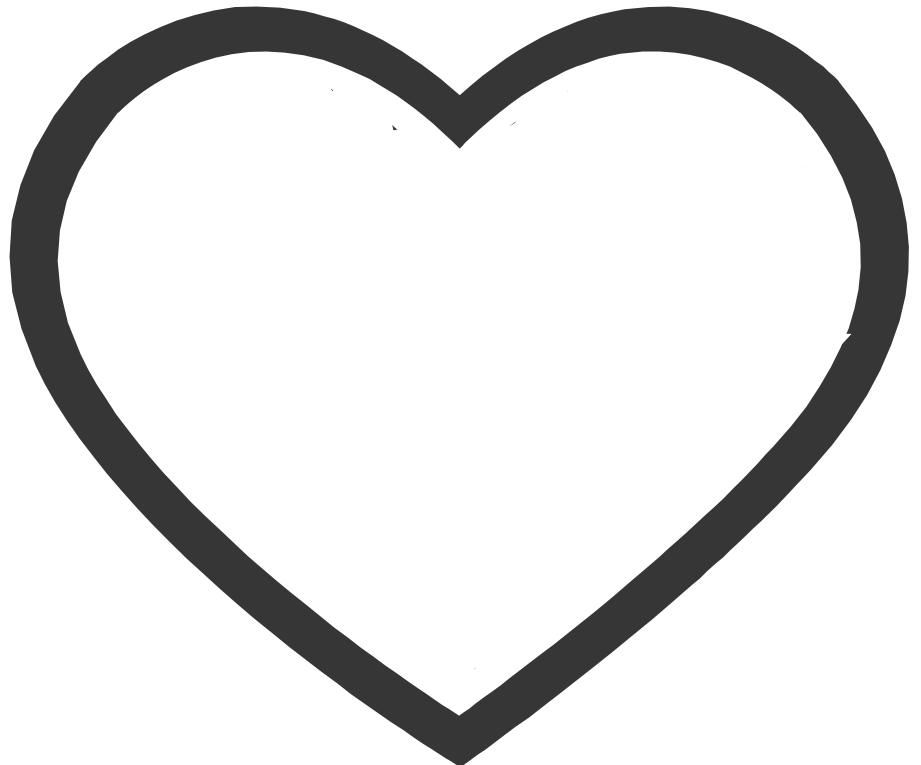
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Heart Patterns



"The Father has loved us
so much that we are
called children of *God*."
I John 3:1



"The Father has loved us
so much that we are
called children of *God*."
I John 3:1

TOGETHER TIME

The Story

Baby Moses
in a Basket
Exodus 2:1-10

The Point

You are a
Treasure
to God!

The Verse

“The Father has
loved us so much
that we are called
children of God.”

1 John 3:1
(NCV)

Cooking With Your Child

Make chocolate baskets to remember the basket Moses' mother made for him.

- Shredded breakfast cereal
- Melted chocolate bar
- Bowl
- Spoon
- Aluminum foil
- Gummy bear (optional)



Crumble the cereal into a bowl. Make sure to break up any chunks. Add the melted chocolate to the bowl of cereal and mix together with a spoon. Line a muffin pan with aluminum foil. Place a spoonful of the mixture into each space. Press the mixture down with a spoon, making an indentation in the middle of the space. Leave the baskets to harden. When the baskets are hardened, take them out of the pan.

You can place a gummy bear in the middle to represent Moses.

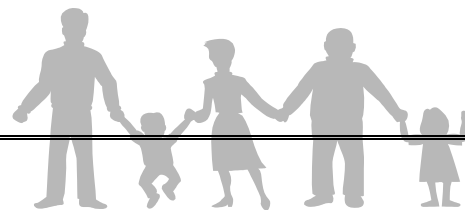
Discussion Questions For You and Your Child

Moses' mother had faith to put Moses in the basket by the Nile River. She didn't know what would happen to him. What things has your family had to do that took faith? Was it hard to do those things, not knowing what would happen? How did God work in the situation?

Take time to tell something you treasure about each member of the family. Don't let the kids get by with generic things like "nice", "good looking" and "kind." Be specific like "You always smile at me when I come home from school."

Family Fun

Fill the sink or bathtub with water. Make a boat out of recyclable materials around the house. Have a contest to see which boat can float the longest or go the fastest. Talk about how Moses' mother had to make sure that the basket would float and not leak.



**DR. JONES
AND THE SECRET OF THE
LOST KEYS**



2



**WELCOME
PROFESSOR
DIGGS**

WHAT DID YOU FIND TODAY?

THE NILE RIVER



EGYPT



**MOSES
IN A
BASKET**



**WHY WOULD IT BE
HARD TO KEEP A
BABY
HIDDEN?**



**WOULD IT BE HARD
FOR A MOM TO
PUT HER BABY IN
THE NILE
RIVER?**



**HOW DID
PHARAOH'S
DAUGHTER FEEL
WHEN SHE
FOUND HIM?**



**DID PHARAOH'S
DAUGHTER TREAT
THE BABY AS A
TREASURE?**




**WAS MOSES
ADOPTED INTO
PHARAOH'S
FAMILY?**




12

**NOTHING CAN
SEPARATE US
FROM:
GOD'S LOVE
FOR US!**

**DR. JONES
CHALLENGE**

A padlock is shown on the left, and a bucket labeled "Worms" filled with worms is on the right. The background features a faint globe and a grid pattern.

TREASURE



**YOU ARE
GOD'S
TREASURE!**

