



**CHRISTIAN
ENDEAVOUR**
for Christ and the Church



A Nation in Slavery

Slavery in Egypt and birth of Moses

Look out – there's a baby!

Exodus 1:1 – 2:10

Teaching aim

To discover that not all orders are right.

Setting the Scene

The story really begins about 400 years before the time of Moses when Joseph became the Prime Minister of Egypt and saved the people from famine (Genesis 41). As a result, Joseph's family came and settled in Egypt (Gen 46:5-7).

Over the 400 years, the Israelites grew in number and the kings (Pharaohs) of Egypt changed until there came a king who did not know about Joseph (see memory verse) – and nobody bothered to tell him. Perhaps they had forgotten him too. But it meant there would be a great change for the children of Israel.

Into Slavery

'they put slave masters over them' (1:11)

The new king was afraid that there were too many Israelites in Egypt so he decided to make them slaves. Imagine what it was like to be a slave – no freedom, hard work, having to do what you are told, and harsh punishment if you didn't. Would you have liked to have been a slave?

But that wasn't the worst. The king then ordered the nurses who attended to the Israelite women when they gave birth to kill the newborn baby boys. They couldn't do it and made excuses to the king (v.17-18). So the king ordered everyone to throw the baby boys into the River Nile (v22).

Into the River

'she placed the child ...among the reeds' (2:3)

What a problem for the mother of Moses when she gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. Think of how she might try to hide him from the soldiers. What would be the difficulties as he began to grow? After 3 months she found she could no longer hide him at home. Read Ex 2:3 and act out her careful preparations to move Moses to a safer place. Papyrus is a tall reed which grows along the River Nile. A little basket placed in the reeds was not entirely safe but it was the best thing she could think of. What could be lurking in the river, and what were the other dangers? (see Activity Sheet) As a precaution, Moses' sister, Miriam, kept watch.

Into the Palace

'she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son' (2:10)

Imagine the princess and her attendants coming to the riverside, finding the basket and discovering the baby. You can hear the shout, 'Look out – there's a baby!', and the splashing about of the slave girl as she obeyed the princess and brought the basket to the princess. Such excitement and then compassion as the baby cried. Even though it was a Hebrew baby, the princess found it impossible to obey her father's orders to throw it in the river. Because Miriam was nearby, she was able to arrange for Moses' mother to look after him until it was time for him to be taken to the princess in the royal palace and be brought up as an Egyptian prince.

Summing up

What a rags-to-riches story! The king's orders to make people slaves and to kill their children were not right. Moses should have been drowned but he was saved from the terrible consequences of the king's orders by people who knew they should not do wrong things. There are times when we have to do what God tells us not what others say we ought to do.

Resources

Memory verse

Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt' (Ex 1:8).

Activities

- Find out what it means to be a slave.
- Find out what life in Ancient Egypt was like.
- Use the Activity Sheet to discover 6 things which could still have been a danger to Moses when he was hidden in the reeds along the Nile. Draw in the people who helped to save Moses.
- Under 8s Activity Sheet "Slavery in Egypt and birth of Moses - 1".
- Over 8s Activity Sheet "Slavery in Egypt and birth of Moses - 2".

Prayer points

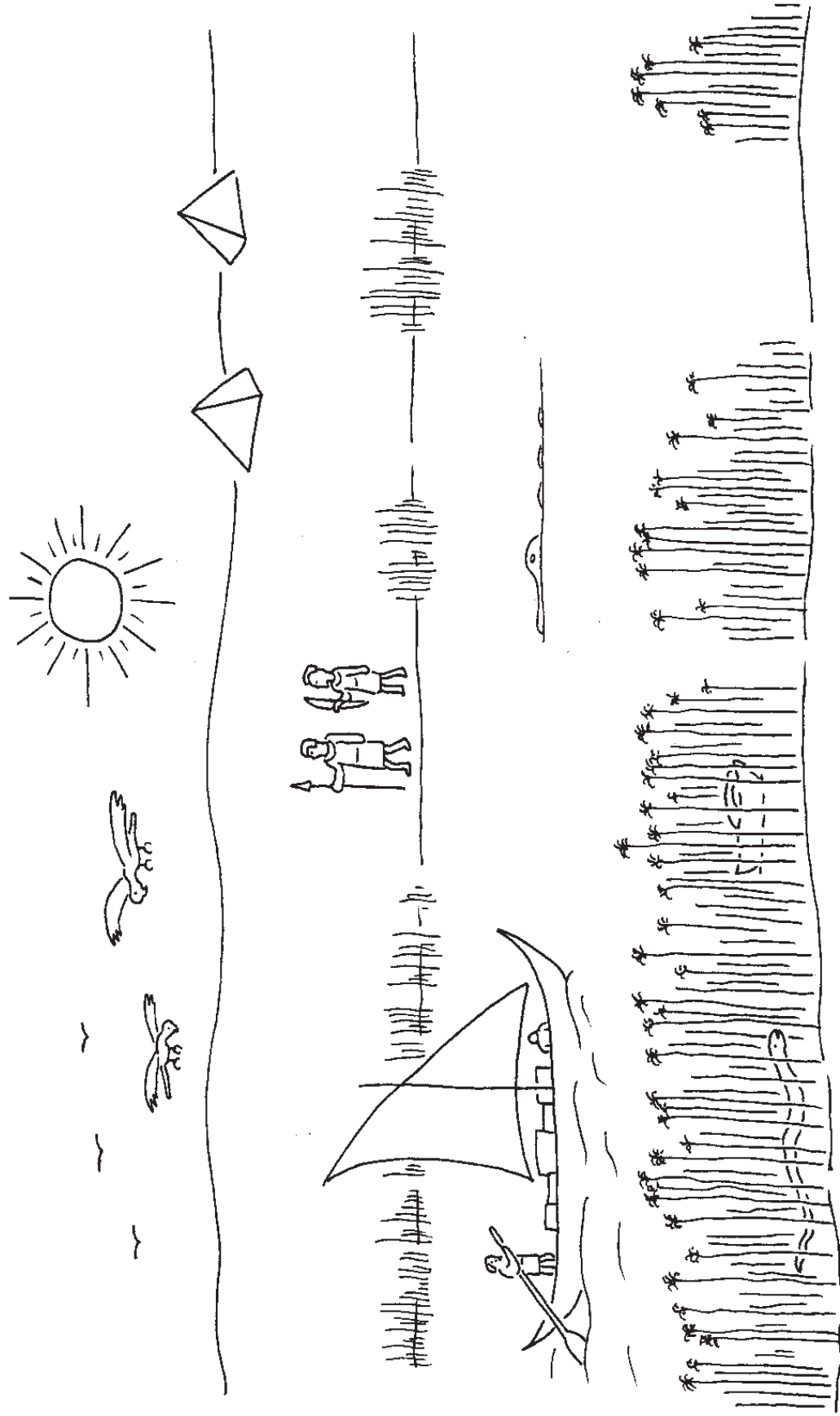
Thank God for:

- Those who look after you and love you.

Pray for:

- Those who are still kept as slaves around the world.

Moses - Safe or in Danger



Find 6 things which could have been a danger to Moses when he was hidden in the reeds. Draw in the people who helped to save Moses.

Look out - there's a baby

Word Search

Exodus 1:1 - 2:10

M	O	S	E	S	M	H	C	T	I	P
O	C	H	A	R	H	P	I	H	S	I
T	H	R	E	E	M	O	N	T	H	S
H	I	P	D	S	E	V	A	L	S	P
E	L	U	R	E	T	S	I	S	I	A
R	D	A	U	G	H	T	E	R	V	P
R	R	H	O	A	R	A	H	P	E	Y
A	E	G	Y	P	T	W	I	V	L	R
T	N	E	S	T	E	K	S	A	B	U
K	I	L	L	M	A	I	R	I	M	S
R	I	V	E	R	N	I	L	E	Y	Z

Find the following words in the Word Search:

- | | | | | |
|--------|----------|----------|--------------|---------|
| Egypt | Slaves | Shiphrah | Puah | Pharaoh |
| Kill | Children | Levi | Three months | Papyrus |
| Basket | Tar | Pitch | River Nile | Sister |
| Miriam | daughter | Mother | Moses | |

Fill in the letters left over in the spaces below to find what the two ladies who defied Pharaoh were.

There should be two letters left over. What are they?

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