



## LESSON 17

*God prepares Israel for deliverance*

EXODUS 1:1-2:25



**God is faithful in times of trouble.**



***“And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob”***  
(Exod 2:24).

## Supporting Truths

1. No trouble can stop God from helping His people.
2. God is faithful to His promises.
3. God is faithful to answer prayer.
4. God prepares His people through trouble.
5. God’s people must respond to trouble in God’s way, not in man’s way.

## Objectives

1. Describe how Pharaoh tried to stop Israel from growing or Moses from being saved.
2. Identify the how Israel’s growth fulfills God’s promise to Abraham.
3. Explain how God had begun answering Israel’s prayer before they even prayed.
4. Point out that Israel’s pain led them to pray, and Moses’ exile prepared him to lead.
5. Explain that Moses was a godly man but still needed to learn to do things God’s way.

# STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God prepares Israel for deliverance • Exodus 1:1-2:25



## Lesson Summary

A new king arose over Egypt. This king did not know Joseph and oppressed the Israelites by making them slaves. Pharaoh even ordered all Hebrew boys to be killed at birth, yet even in this suffering God was in control. But God rescued one of these baby boys, Moses, and began preparing him to be the deliverer of His people.

## Spotlight on the Gospel

God used Joseph to save His people, and the line of the Messiah, by bringing his family to Egypt. While in Egypt, God protected His people and prepared Moses to deliver them from bondage to the Egyptians. Now, through the Messiah, we trust God to deliver us too. He has appointed Jesus as an even greater deliverer than Moses, and when we cry out to Him, Jesus will set us free from our bondage to sin.

LAST WEEK



God delivers Joseph  
*Genesis 39:1-50:26*

THIS WEEK



God prepares Israel  
for deliverance  
*Exodus 1:1-2:25*

NEXT WEEK



God raises Moses to  
lead Israel  
*Exodus 3:1-4:31*

DELIVERANCE

## Lesson Commentary

### *God is faithful in times of trouble.*

Exodus begins with sadness and hope. The sadness is that Israel went from being honored by the Egyptians to being their slaves. But the hope is that even through trouble, God is faithful to do exactly what He had promised (Ps 136). He was going to make Israel His own special nation, and the first step was to cause them to multiply and to prepare Moses to be their deliverer.



#### THINK ABOUT IT

Faith grows stronger through a deeper understanding of God's faithfulness.

### God caused Israel to grow even though they were oppressed (1:1–22)

The first chapter of Exodus is a cycle of growth and **oppression**, showing that despite unfair and cruel

treatment, God was accomplishing His promise to make Abraham a great nation (Gen 12:2), with descendants as numerous as the stars (Gen 15:5). No one, not even the most powerful Pharaoh, can stop God from keeping His promise to His people (Rom 8:31–39).

The first period of growth connects back to Genesis to show that God is faithful to His people (Deut 7:9). The first seven verses of Exodus repeat what we have already read in Genesis. These connections focus our attention on God's faithfulness to make the descendants of Jacob a mighty nation. The Israelites grew from 70 men when they came to Egypt to 600,000 men when they left (Num 1:46). Five different words for growth are used in one verse to emphasize how dramatically God was fulfilling His promise (Exod 1:7). Because of this rapid growth, Israel could now be called a nation (1:9).

So it is no wonder that the new king was concerned about the Israelites (1:8–10). This new king was probably the founder of the Hyksos dynasty, since Exodus 1:8 literally says a new king arose "against"

Egypt. The Hyksos came from outside Egypt and took over in 1730 BC, about 150 years after Jacob had brought his family to Egypt. This new king feared the growing population of Hebrews so much that he made them slaves (1:11). But the more the Israelites were oppressed, the more they increased (1:12).

Verse 12 implies a period of time, and by verse 13 the Egyptians were back in power and the Hyksos were gone. This would have been about 1575 BC, when Egypt's most powerful dynasty, the 18th dynasty, began. This dynasty continued to oppress the Israelites by making their lives bitter with hard work (1:14). The Israelites would later remember their bitter suffering by celebrating the Passover with bitter herbs (12:8).

One Pharaoh (remember that **Pharaoh** is just a title, like "king") also ordered the Hebrew midwives, women whose job was to help with the birth of babies, to kill any Hebrew boys at birth (1:15–16). The midwives refused, and when questioned by Pharaoh they offered the excuse that Hebrew women give birth before the midwives arrive (1:17–19). God responded by blessing the midwives because they feared Him more than Pharaoh (1:20–21).

So the people of Israel continued to increase until they became very mighty (1:20). Again Pharaoh tried to restrain their growth, this time by giving every Egyptian the orders he had given to the midwives (1:22). The Egyptians should have rejoiced at Israel's growth and been good to them, because God blesses those who bless Abraham's descendants (Gen 12:3). But by oppressing the Israelites, the Egyptians brought a curse upon themselves. God was against them, so that even one of the most powerful dynasties proved powerless to stop God from blessing His people.

#### THINK ABOUT IT

Pharaoh did not fear God and was cursed but the mid-wives feared God and were blessed.



# STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

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## God prepared a deliverer for Israel even before they asked for one (2:1–22)

Despite Pharaoh's vigilance to kill all the Hebrew baby boys, we are told of a baby whom God would raise up to be Israel's deliverer. God not only saved the baby's life (2:2–9), but also gave him an elite Egyptian education under the oversight of Pharaoh's own daughter (2:10; Acts 7:22)! God cared for Moses because He was going to use him to carry out His promises to bring Israel out of Egypt (Gen 15:16) and to bless all nations through Abraham's seed (Gen 12:3).

God saved Moses using a basket coated in tar (Exod 2:3). The word for "basket" is used only to describe Moses' basket and Noah's ark (Gen 6:14). Since Moses wrote both of these accounts, he may have been making a connection between the huge ark that saved Noah and the tiny ark that saved him. Moses and Noah were both saved in order to rescue the line of the Messiah, fulfilling God's promise to crush Satan's head through the seed of the woman (3:15).

When Moses was grown, he could have stayed with the Egyptians to enjoy life as a ruler. Instead, he showed his faith in God by joining his people (Heb 11:24). In his zeal for justice, he even killed an Egyptian (Exod 2:11–12). Despite his righteous motive, this was not yet God's time to deliver Israel.

The Israelites needed more time. Just as Israel would later reject their Messiah, so the Israelites in Egypt rejected the man who would deliver them from slavery (Exod 2:13–14). Moses fled into exile, where he again displayed his zeal for justice by kindly helping the seven daughters of Reuel against the selfish shepherds. The Israelites had rejected him when he tried to rescue them, but Reuel, a Midianite, accepted him and even made Moses his son-in-law.

## God heard Israel's cry for deliverance (2:23–25)

During this time, Israel cried out to God. Even before they cried out in Exodus 2:23–25, God was at work preparing to answer their call for help. He was preparing Moses by sparing his life, providing him the best Egyptian education, and humbling him in exile (1 Pet 1:6–7; 4:1–2). God used Israel's desperate situation to demonstrate the greatness of His deliverance.

Today, God is still in control and still hears the prayers of those who cry out to Him, seeking deliverance from their slavery to sin.

### THINK ABOUT IT

God used Israel's desperation as a means to prepare them for His deliverance.



## Lesson Outline

*God is faithful in times of trouble.*

### AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE



1. God caused Israel to grow even though the Egyptians were mean to them (1:1–22).
2. God protected baby Moses and prepared him to rescue Israel (2:1–22).
3. God heard Israel asking Him for help (2:23–25).

### AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



1. **God caused Israel to grow even though they were oppressed (1:1–22).**
  - Growth: After Joseph died, Israel became mighty and numerous (1:1–7)
  - Oppression: A new king made them slaves (1:8–11).
  - Growth: The more Israel was afflicted, the more they grew (1:12–14).
  - Oppression: Pharaoh told the midwives to kill all the baby boys (1:15–16).
  - Growth: The midwives refused to obey, and the people became very strong (1:17–21).
  - Oppression: Pharaoh told all the Egyptians to kill every Hebrew baby boy (1:22).
2. **God prepared a deliverer for Israel even before they asked for one (2:1–22)**
  - Moses was born and was put in a waterproof basket in the Nile River (2:1–4).
  - Moses was protected, adopted, and raised by Pharaoh's daughter (2:5–10).
  - Moses sided with his people to rescue them, but they rejected him (2:11–14).
  - Moses rescued Reuel's daughters, and Reuel accepted him (2:15–22).
3. **God heard Israel's cry for deliverance (2:23–25).**
  - Israel cried out for help because of their slavery (2:23).
  - God heard their cry and remembered His covenant (2:24–25).



# TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

*God prepares Israel for deliverance • Exodus 1:1–2:25*



## Lesson Questions

*Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.*



### Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Why were the Egyptians mean to the Israelites?**  
They wanted to stop the Israelites from growing into a mighty nation.
- 2. Did the Egyptians' plan work?**  
No. God caused Israel to grow even more.
- 3. Who did God rescue from the command to kill all baby boys?**  
God rescued Moses.
- 4. What did the Israelites finally do?**  
They cried out to God for help, and He heard them.



### Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. In the first verses of Exodus, how did God show His faithfulness to Abraham?**  
He caused Israel to grow into a large nation.
- 2. What did the new king over Egypt do?**  
He made them work hard as slaves to try to stop them from increasing.
- 3. Did the oppression stop Israel from growing?**  
No. The more they were oppressed, the more they grew.
- 4. What other plan also failed to stop Israel from growing?**  
Pharaoh ordered all the boys to be killed at birth, but the midwives refused and God continued to make Israel grow.
- 5. Who did God rescue, and how?**  
He rescued Moses by using a waterproof basket (a little ark) and by causing Pharaoh's own daughter to raise and educate Moses.
- 6. Why did God rescue Moses?**  
God was already preparing to rescue His people. Moses was going to be their deliverer. That is why Moses chose to side with his people instead of with the Egyptians who raised him.
- 7. How did Moses try to start delivering Israel?**  
Moses killed an Egyptian and tried to stop Israelites from arguing. Moses needed to realize that he couldn't rely on his own strength or abilities to do God's work.
- 8. Why did God let Israel suffer so long before rescuing them?**  
God wanted them to learn through their suffering that they needed God to deliver them. God was waiting for them to pray to Him for help.

## Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

### CARDBOARD BRICKS

Build walls and towers with large cardboard bricks. Today's Bible lesson tells about God's people being slaves in Egypt. They were forced to make bricks from clay and straw to build great houses for the Egyptians. It was hard work, and God's people were treated harshly.

### JUMPING THE NILE

Lay two ropes parallel on the floor, about a foot apart. Have the children line up along one rope, and then tell them to jump across the "river." Move the ropes a bit farther apart, and have the children jump across again. Continue to widen the river as the children try to jump across without "getting wet." Tell the children to listen to what will happen in the Nile River in the Bible lesson today.



ILLUSTRATE

### A BABY IN A BASKET

Bring in a baby boy doll, basket, and paint brush (to paint on tar). Use these props as you teach the lesson.

### HARD LABOR

During the lesson, when you come to verse 11, tell the children that the Egyptians made the Israelites slaves because they were afraid of them. They made the Israelites do all kinds of hard labor. As you read through Exodus 1:8–14, invite children to come up to the front of the class to act as Israelites performing hard labor. Allow them to continue working while you read through the text, stopping to add more workers as you read through the story. Provide the children with props from around the house.

1. Built storage cities (1:11) – Hammers, pieces of wood, measuring tape, level.
2. Mortar and bricks (1:14) – Bricks, bucket, trowel.
3. Labor in the field (1:14) – Shovel, hoe, rake.



APPLY

### GOD HEARS ISRAEL'S CRY FOR HELP

See *Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1*.

**Materials:** Craft sheet, cardstock, scissors, and crayons.

**Directions:** Pre-cut pictures from craft sheet and fold along the solid line to create bases for the pictures. Pre-cut a sheet of blue paper in half and cut two yellow triangles per student. In class, have students color the pictures and then glue the bases to the bottom half of a sheet of folded cardstock. Have them glue the two yellow triangles to the blue paper, and then glue the blue half sheet to the top half of the folded cardstock.



*God Hears Israel's Cry for Help*  
See *Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1*.



# TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

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AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

## SINK OR FLOAT

Provide a dishpan partially filled with water. Drop various objects into the water to see whether they would float on a river. Some materials could be cork, wood, rocks, feathers, sponges, plastic lids, baskets, and fruit. Moses' mother made a basket from things that she knew would float on top of the water. She wanted baby Moses to stay safely on top of the water while he was hiding from the Egyptians.

## MULTIPLY EXCEEDINGLY

Start with seven big balls of clay to represent Jacob's 70 descendants. Have the students divide the dough into smaller bits and roll them into balls. Collect the balls in a clear plastic container. Talk about how Jacob's family started out in Egypt as 70 and multiplied to more than 600,000.



ILLUSTRATE

## A MOTHER'S SORROW TURNED TO JOY

Try telling the Bible lesson from the perspective of Jochabed, the mother of Moses, who put Moses in the basket and set him on the Nile.

## BABY OR WEDDING SCRAPBOOK

Bring a baby or wedding scrapbook to class to use at the beginning of your lesson. Share a few pages of pictures with the children and talk about how a scrapbook helps you to remember special things that happened in your life. Explain that today you will start teaching about Moses and some of the special things that happened early in his life, beginning with his birth.



APPLY

## GOD PROTECTS MOSES

See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1.

**Materials:** Craft sheet, green construction paper, green and tan cardstock, blue paper, crayons, scissors, and glue.

**Directions:** Instruct children to color and cut out the pictures from craft sheet. Glue the baby and the basket top to the basket. Have the children cut a strip of blue paper that looks like a river and glue it to the green construction paper. Form a palm tree by rolling a half sheet of tan cardstock and taping it together. Make cuts from the top down to create branches. Insert palm leaves cut from green cardstock. Create tall grass from green cardstock and glue it the side of the river. Glue pictures and palm tree to the green construction paper.

God Protects Moses  
See Year 1 Craft Book, Book 1.



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

**FROM EGYPT TO MIDIAN**

Use a map to show the place where today's story takes place. Review how the family of Israel came from the land of Canaan to Egypt. Show Goshen, the section of Egypt where the people of Israel lived and grew into a nation.

**WHAT IS SOVEREIGN?**

What does **sovereign** mean? It means that God is in total control of everything at every moment. The one who is sovereign is the one in charge, the supreme ruler (like a king). God is sovereign over the universe. Ask the children to explain what this means. If God is sovereign over the universe, then He has authority over what happens on this planet, including all those who live on this planet. Whatever God has planned to happen will happen because He is sovereign; there is no such thing as luck or chance.

- Read Psalm 115:3. "But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases."
- Read Psalm 47:7–8. "For God is the King of all the earth...God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne."
- This week, we will focus on God's sovereignty in the birth and the protection of Moses.



ILLUSTRATE

**HEAVY BURDENS**

Ask a child to stand in front of the class. As you describe the first four terrible actions of Pharaoh, have the child hold a brick. Add a brick to the child's load each time you discuss a new heavy burden in the passage.

1. Set taskmasters over the Israelites (Exod 1:11)
2. Made them serve with rigor (Exod 1:13)
3. Commanded the Hebrew midwives to kill newborn boys (Exod 1:16)
4. Commanded "all his people" to cast every Israelite son into the water (Exod 1:22)

**RIGHT THING, WRONG WAY/TIME**

Just like Abraham and Jacob, Moses failed to act in God's way and in God's time (Gen 17:18; 27:19). Use the following humorous examples to illustrate this truth.

1. *Disgusting lunch* – Pack a brown bag lunch using unusual and disgusting foods.
2. *Rain's a coming!* – Put on rubber boots, raincoat or poncho, and hat. Open an umbrella and stand under it.
3. *Verse jumble* – Read John 3:16 backwards, beginning with last word of the verse and ending with the first word of the verse
4. *Delayed response* – Ask a child to throw a ball to you. Don't move until after the ball has landed (or hit you!), then move like you're trying to catch it.



APPLY

**ACTING REVIEW**

Act out various parts of the lesson without using any words, and have the children guess what you are acting out. After discussing the answer, let the children imitate you and then go on and guess the next action.

- Pretend to be digging and forming block bricks with your hands. (*The Israelites were slaves and worked very hard making bricks.*)
- Hold your hands together as if praying, and look up to God while mouthing, "Help!" (*The Israelites groaned and asked God to help them.*)
- Pretend to hold and rock an imaginary baby. (*The Israelites had babies and loved them very much.*)
- Hold your index finger to your mouth and say "shh, shh." (*Moses' mother hid her baby for three months and kept people from hearing his cries.*)
- Pretend to weave a basket and place a baby inside. (*Moses' mother made a basket boat for her baby and put it in the river.*)
- Make a sad face and pretend to cry. (*The crying baby was found by the princess.*)
- Run in place. (*Miriam ran back to get Moses' mother to feed and take care of him.*)
- Point to heaven while holding and rocking a baby. (*God cared for Moses.*)