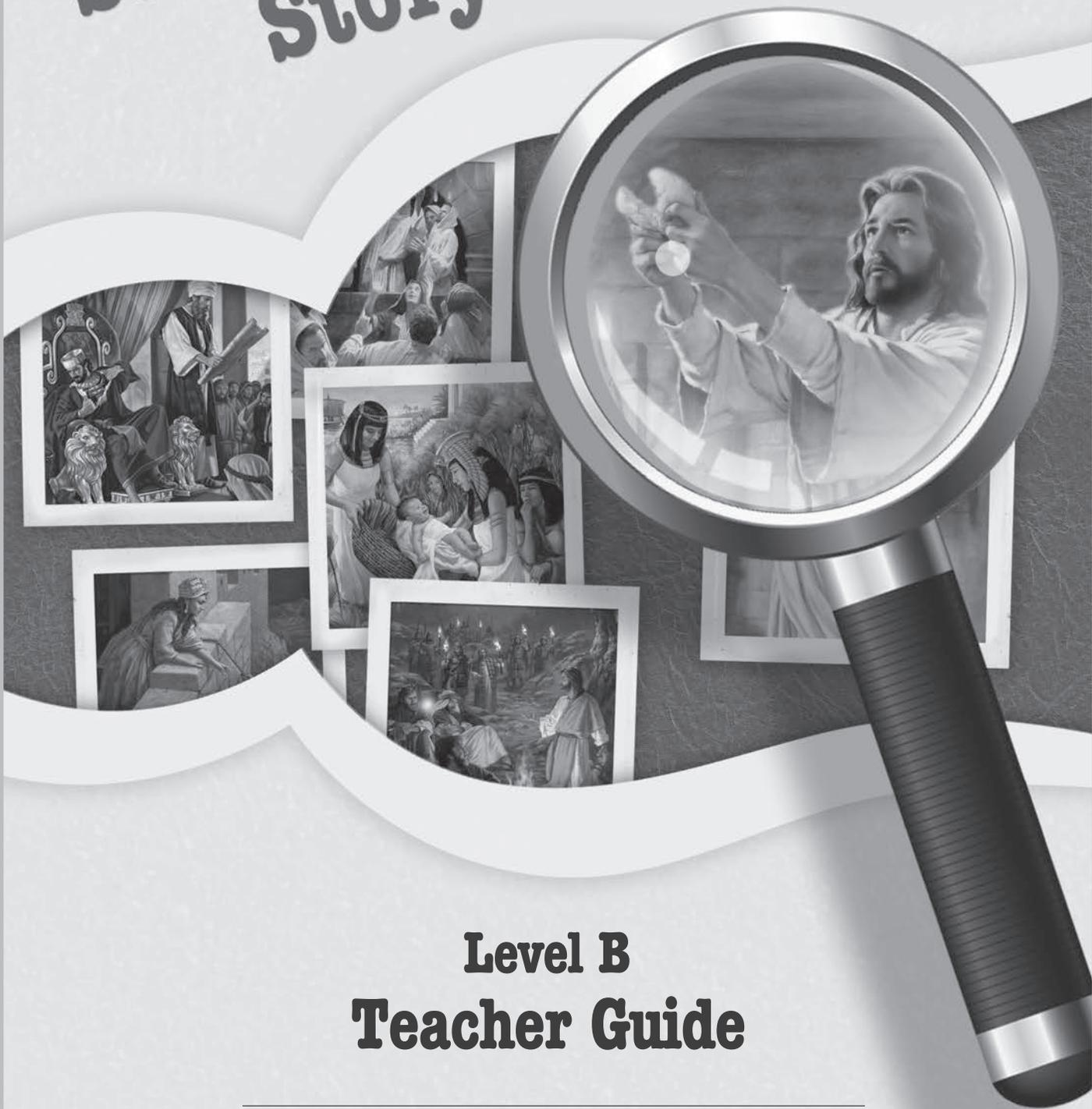


I Spy Salvation's Story



Level B Teacher Guide

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE • SAINT LOUIS



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Preparing the Lesson

The Case of the Floating Basket: Birth of Moses

Exodus 1:8–2:10

Key Point

God sent Moses and then protected him so that he could deliver the Israelites from slavery; in the same way, God sent His greater Son, Jesus, to deliver us from the slavery of sin.

Law/Gospel

Sin, death, and the devil try to tempt, oppress, discourage, and enslave us because they are opposed to the joy of life in Christ. **God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, born in a humble way, to deliver us from this temptation, oppression, discouragement, and slavery.**

Context

Jacob's son Joseph became a great ruler in Egypt, second only to Pharaoh, and helped the rest of his family—Jacob along with his eleven other sons and their families—to settle in Egypt (Genesis 37–50). At first, the pharaohs were favorable toward the Hebrews and entrusted to them the care of all the flocks and herds of Egypt. However, as the Hebrews grew more numerous and the memory of Joseph's wisdom and management faded, a new pharaoh arose who turned the relationship between the nations from one of friendship to one of fear.

Commentary

The whole account of Pharaoh's oppression of Israel, his struggle with the Lord, and his eventual destruction demonstrates God's faithfulness to His people and His victory over His enemies and the enemies of His people. For Christians today, this account reminds us that while Satan and our sinful nature work to enslave us and put us to eternal death, the Lord fights against them for our release.

Fearful of the rapid growth of the Israelites, Pharaoh enslaves them and tasks them with making bricks, and then constructing buildings and cities with these bricks, and toiling in the fields (Exodus 1:11, 14). Slavery and hard work do little to control the population of the Israelites, however; they continue to multiply and spread in Egypt. In a second attempt to reduce the number of the Israelites, Pharaoh commands the Hebrew midwives to slay the

boys birthed to the Hebrew women. Although threatened and oppressed, the midwives secretly refuse, protecting life rather than engaging in murder. As a reward, the Lord gives the midwives their own children. Now Pharaoh's fear increases, and he tries to make his whole nation complicit in the murder of the Israelites (1:22).

Pharaoh represents not only the oppression of God's people but also the fear that strikes each of us when we fail to trust God. Without the faith and peace God gives us by His Holy Spirit, we would all be mistrustful of others. To the extent it would be in our power, we would attempt to control and even harm others to avoid the perceived threat they present.

Pharaoh's fear and tyranny do not win this time. With her fear of God greater than her fear of Pharaoh, Moses' mother hides him for three months; then she places him in a waterproof basket among the reeds of the Nile. (Notice that she does not send him drifting uncontrollably down the river.) Because the Nile was the center of Egyptian religion, agriculture, and commerce, Moses' mother could have expected that her baby would be discovered after a short amount of time and perhaps cared for by an Egyptian household. Not only does this happen, but Moses is also brought into the very household of Pharaoh himself. God's care and provision is clearly evident, working directly against the one who is trying to destroy God's people.

This account shows how God's hand is at work to protect and release His people, even when the greatest of earthly powers works against us and when it appears that God has forsaken us. God actually works through evil and perilous circumstances to bring forgiveness and salvation.

PODCAST

Visit

cph.org/teacherspot

and listen to the
Seeds of Faith podcast
each week!

Lesson 2

The Case of the Floating Basket: Birth of Moses

Exodus 1:8–2:10

Connections

Bible Words

O God! You are my help and my deliverer. Psalm 70:5

Faith Word

deliverer

Hymns or Songs

God Loves Us (SKLS2, p. 14);
You Are by My Side (SKLS, p. 63)

Catechism

Lord's Prayer: Seventh Petition

1 Opening (10 minutes)

Worship

To Prepare: Bring to class a variety of woven baskets and objects that together weigh about thirteen pounds. *Note:* Some songs are available on the Director CD.

As students enter the classroom, invite them to write prayer requests on index cards and drop them in one of the baskets. Use the cards in the Closing.

Say Welcome to Sunday School today where you will be detectives and solve "The Case of the Floating Basket." Let's begin with a song.

Sing: "God Loves Us" (SKLS2, p. 14)

Invocation: **In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Investigation Clue

Say If a healthy newborn baby weighs seven pounds and gains about two pounds each month, how much will that baby weigh when three months old?

Do calculations on the board as students guide you. (The baby would weigh about thirteen pounds.)

Show the children the items that together weigh thirteen pounds. Place the items in some of the baskets to decide if any of the baskets would be the right size and strength to hold the three-month-old baby. Speculate on how you would make the basket float in water.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1 Opening	2 God Speaks	3 We Live	4 Closing
Variety of baskets Index cards Various items	Activity Page 2 Student Leaflet 2	Resource Page 2 Activity Page 2 Construction paper Wrapping paper or magazines Ribbon or yarn	Index cards Basket Cross

Say A basket plays an important part in today's Bible story. Let's find out how.

Offer Gifts: Remind the children of any special projects your offerings are supporting this summer. This week, offerings could furnish supplies for your church nursery.

Pray Dear God, be with us today as we hear Your Word and learn about the mysteries of Your great love for us. Amen.

Celebrate: Recognize any children who are celebrating birthdays or Baptism birthdays this week.

2 God Speaks (20 minutes)

To Prepare: Make individual copies of Activity Page 2. Practice the signs that go with the Bible Words until you can sign them without looking at the drawings. Use the Student Leaflet for review.

Have students turn to Exodus 1 in their Bibles. Across the top of the board, write the words *Who, What, When, Where, Why*. Have students follow along in their Bibles as you or one of the students reads verses 8–14. Then fill in the information on the board in the correct column.

Ask Where and when did this story take place? (In Egypt, after the death of Joseph)

Who are the main characters? (Pharaoh or the king of Egypt, the mother of Moses, Moses, Miriam)

What are they attempting to do? (Moses' mother tries to save him. Pharaoh tries to kill the baby boys of the people of Israel.)

Why did Pharaoh make his decree? (He was afraid the people would become too powerful or too mighty.)

Say Once Joseph died, the new ruler forgot how Joseph had actually saved all of the people of Egypt because God let him know there would be seven years of good crops and seven years of drought. Joseph's relatives all stayed in the land of Goshen during the drought and their nation had grown in number and in strength.

Ask Why was this new king afraid of Joseph's ancestors, the people of Israel? (He was afraid they might overpower the Egyptians and want to rule the land instead of him.)

Which verse shows how fearful the Egyptians were of the people of Israel? (Verse 12 specifically states that the Egyptians were "in dread of the people of Israel.")

What was the king's first attempt to reduce the number and strength of the people of Israel? (He made them slaves, gave them nearly impossible tasks; verse 14 states, "made them work as slaves.")

Say In the next section, we will read how the king attempted to diminish the strength and number of God's people. Have students read or follow along as you read verses 15–22.

Ask When making the people of Israel slaves and forcing them to work hard didn't work, what did the king try? (He told the midwives, those women who helped when children were born, to save any baby girls, but to kill the baby boys. In the future, the people of Israel would not have strong men to form an army and fight the Egyptians.)

Say The midwives did not go along with the king's plan. For this, God blessed them. The king's final attempt was to instruct everyone in Egypt, not just the midwives, to kill the Israelite baby boys. Now we will see how God saved one baby boy to serve His people. As you read Exodus 2:1–10, have the students follow along.

Ask How long did Moses' mother hide him? (Three months)

What difficulties would she have had hiding a baby in a small house for so long? Students may suggest the baby's crying, needing to feed and diaper him, the house being so small with probably only one room with no good places to hide.

How did God save Moses? Have students retell the details of the story from Exodus 2:4–10. **God saved Moses to continue His plan to redeem His people and us too.**

Review

Distribute the Student Leaflets and review the lesson. The first nine statements are false (thumbs down). The last one is correct (thumbs up).

Bible Words

O God! You are my help and my deliverer. Psalm 70:5

Find the Bible Words on the Student Leaflet.

Say How do these words remind you of today's Bible account? (God delivered Moses. Later, God used Moses to deliver His people.)

Say Our Faith Word for today is *deliverer*. Write the word on the board. Tell a friend how God is a deliverer. What has He done? Allow time for the children to discuss. Summarize the activity. **God used a basket in a river to deliver Moses from death. When Moses grew up, God used him to deliver His people from slavery. Many years later, God sent a descendant of those people to deliver us. Whom did God send?** (He sent Jesus.) **We can spy our salvation in this story too! From what did Jesus deliver us?** (He delivered us from our slavery to sin, from death, and from the power of the devil.) **In what waters does God deliver His people?** (In the waters of Baptism, God gives us the Holy Spirit, and through Him, faith. This faith saves us from the power of sin, death, and the devil.)

Ask What part of the Lord's Prayer uses the word *deliver*? On the board, write the Seventh Petition "but deliver us from evil." **Through these words, we ask our Father in heaven to deliver us or take away the evil that might hurt us now or in the future.**

Distribute Activity Page 2 to help students learn signs that accompany the Bible Words.

3 We Live (25 minutes)

Use these activities to help the children grow in their understanding of what the Bible story means for their lives. Choose the ones that work best with your class.

Investigation

To Prepare: Cut apart sections of Resource Page 2 in the back of this book. Put the pantomime slips in a basket.

Say **When Moses' mother hid her three-month-old son in the bushes, she hoped someone would find him and care for him. She had Moses' older sister, Miriam, watch the basket. When Pharaoh's daughter found the baby in the basket, Miriam was brave and asked if she could get a nurse for the child. That nurse just happened to be his mother! Isn't God good?**

Have students pantomime other ways God gives us to serve one another. Each child chooses one slip of paper, reads the idea, and acts out ways to serve. Other students guess. After each pantomime, consider how God might be at work through these helpful tasks.

Ask **How might God's good and gracious will be done through us?** Also, consider the things we do that are not part of God's good and gracious will. **How do we hinder God's work? What work has Jesus done to save us?**

Consider investigating another Bible story where God hindered the plans of evil. Read about Joseph in Genesis 50:15–21.

Craft

To Prepare: Make a woven picture from the shell on Activity Page 2, construction paper, wrapping paper or magazine pictures, ribbon, and yarn. For the base, use one piece of 9 × 12-inch construction paper and the baptismal shell cut from Activity Page 2. Cut 1- to 2-inch-wide the weaving strips from colorful construction paper, wrapping paper, or magazine pictures. Consider weaving yarn or ribbon strips also.

To make the base or warp, fold a 9 × 12-inch sheet of construction paper in half the long way (hot dog style). Then make a series of parallel cuts. Begin by holding the fold in your hand. Cut from the fold to the edge, stopping before you get to the edge.

The lateral strips are the weft or filling. Show the students how to weave under and over alternating strips and tighten them as they go so they stay in place. For variety, weave in ribbon or yarn. Secure the ends with a dot of glue or tape.

Say **Moses' mother prepared a strong and secure basket to hold Moses. As she wove, she may have prayed that the Lord would protect her son. By giving up her son, she hoped to save him, and that's just what happened. Through a river and a princess, God saved the floating baby. By giving up His Son, God saved you. Jesus came to deliver all of us from evil.**

Challenge the students to think of ways to show how God saved them. They can make and add crosses or they can add the Bible Words. They may want to color and use the shell and water drops from Activity Page 2.

Organize the finished projects together in your classroom. Consider taking a digital picture of the display and sending it through e-mail to the families of your students.

Snack

Crush 10 to 12 large shredded wheat cereal biscuits while you melt 4 tablespoons of butter or margarine and 4 cups of marshmallows in the microwave. Stir the ingredients together. Spoon portions onto waxed paper. When cool enough, shape the mixture into edible baskets. Makes 12.

4 Closing (5 minutes)

To Prepare: Distribute the prayer cards. Have the students add their requests at the end of today's closing prayer. Some students may prefer to pray silently. Let them know this is okay too. Place a cross in one of your baskets. *Note:* Some songs are available on the Director CD.

Sing: "You Are by My Side" (SKLS, p. 63)

The Investigation Clue

Show the basket with a cross in it.

Say God sent Moses and protected him, so that later, Moses could deliver the Israelites from slavery. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to deliver us from sin through His death and resurrection.

Pray Dear God, thank You for delivering Moses from evil Pharaoh through a floating basket and for delivering me from evil through Jesus, my Savior. You had a plan for Moses, and I know you have a plan for me. Lead me to serve others in Your name. Hear me now as I pray for others. Children insert their requests. **In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

As children leave, have them work with a partner to sign today's Bible Words. Remind children to sign the verse to their families throughout the week and sign it to themselves in a mirror before they go to bed tonight.

Sing the words "I Love to Spy God's Story" to the tune of the refrain from "I Love to Tell the Story."

**I love to spy God's story of Jesus' love and glory,
To spy the true, true story of Jesus' love for me.**

Spying God at Work through You

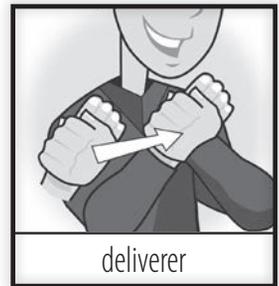
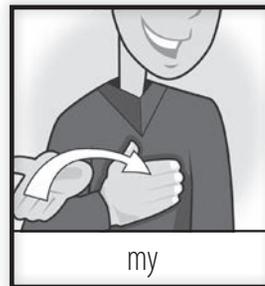
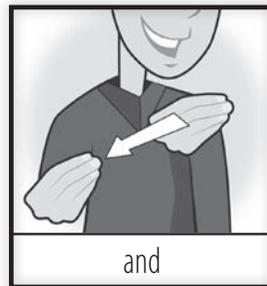
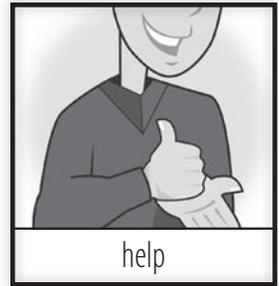
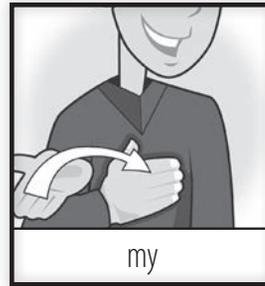
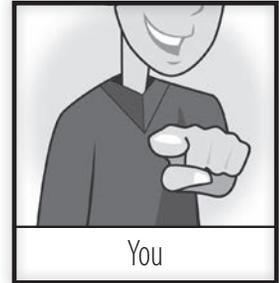
God saved Moses to serve in His kingdom. God saved you and those you teach to serve too. Consider this project. Collect items to make baskets of hope. Fill them with cheery cards, devotion booklets, and healthy snacks.

Psalm 70:5

Sign the Bible Words.

O God!
You are my help
and my deliverer.

Psalm 70:5



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