

Bible Point ▶

God is always with us when we're scared.

Bible Verse

“The Lord is always with me” (Acts 2:25a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- understand that God is always with us,
 - hear a story about how God was with Moses,
 - realize that God helps us when we're scared, and
 - thank God that he is always with us.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Miriam watches over baby Moses.

Exodus
2:3-6



Moses was saved partly due to his mother's ingenuity. She made his floating basket out of papyrus, a reed that grows even to this day along the banks of the Nile River in Egypt. He was also saved in part due to his sister's bravery. She showed great courage and poise when she approached Pharaoh's daughter. Miriam's courage under pressure would later enable her to have a part with her two brothers, Moses and Aaron, in leading the tribes of Israel out of Egypt.

Human ingenuity and bravery, yes; but something bigger was happening here. Even from the beginnings of Moses' story, we see God at work.

Imagine yourself in Miriam's shoes. Even though she exhibited courage and poise, Miriam probably found approaching the Pharaoh's daughter quite intimidating. Her actions and words remind us how God was at work. Through Miriam we are reminded how God works with and through us, even when we are scared.

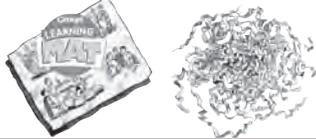
Prayer

- Read Psalm 121.
- Have you ever felt God's protective presence in your life? Do you struggle with fear? Meditate on God's deliverance of Moses and the words of this psalm when you do.
- Pray: God, you keep careful watch over your children. Help the children I teach to remember this when they're scared. In Jesus' name, amen.

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	Basket name tags made in Lesson 1	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Fun Floaters —Experiment with objects that sink and float.	Plastic tablecloth, dishpan of water, variety of items that sink or float	
	Option 2: Wonderful Weaving —Weave crepe paper through large baskets.	Crepe paper streamers, scissors, 2 plastic laundry baskets	
	Option 3: Bitty Baskets —Make tiny baskets to use during the Bible story.	Paper egg cartons, scissors, washable markers, cotton balls, facial tissue	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Make a pretend river using sounds and motions.		
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Listen to a frog tell the story of baby Moses.	Bible, baskets from Option 3, CD player	
	Do the Bible Story —Play an action game and help Miriam hide in the grass.	Tape, paper plates or sheets of paper	
Closing 	I'm Scared! —Teach Whiskers that God is with him even at night.		
	Baby Moses Action Rhyme —Review the action rhyme they learned last week.		

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: basket name tags made in Lesson 1

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." discussion. Use questions such as "Who was hidden in a little basket boat?" or "Who is always with you?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn ► God is always with us when we're scared.**
- Hand out the basket name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help the children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class the first week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout on page 22. You can find the directions for making the name tags on page 13.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.

teacher tips

It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

◀ BIBLE POINT



Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

While children are playing, direct their conversation toward the point of today's lesson. Ask questions such as "What things make you feel scared?" or "Who helps you when you're scared?"

■ Option 1: Fun Floaters

SUPPLIES: plastic tablecloth, dishpan of water, variety of items that sink or float

Cover one area of the floor with a plastic tablecloth or shower curtain. Set out a shallow dishpan of water, and provide a variety of "sink or float" items such as sponges, plastic tub toys, pingpong balls, large stones, golf balls, and crayons. Ask children to identify the "sinking" items and the "floating" items. Then invite children to test each item in the water. Mention that in today's Bible story, baby Moses floated down a river in a basket. Explain that ► God is always with us when we're scared and that God was with baby Moses.

■ Option 2: Wonderful Weaving

SUPPLIES: crepe paper streamers, scissors, two plastic laundry baskets

Before this activity, cut 12-inch crepe paper streamers. Cut at least one streamer for each child in class.

Set out two plastic laundry baskets. (Be sure the baskets have an open-weave construction.) Invite children to weave the crepe paper streamers in and out through the basket holes. As children work, mention that in today's Bible story baby Moses was hidden in a woven basket and set among tall grasses at the edge of a river.

teacher tips

Be sure to adequately supervise the children while they are near the water.

Also as a precaution, all objects used in preschool activities should be no smaller than a 50-cent piece (to avoid choking).

◀ BIBLE POINT




teacher tips

If some children choose not to do Option 3, have adult helpers make a few extra baskets. You'll use the baskets during "Hear and Tell the Bible Story."


BIBLE POINT

■ Option 3: Bitty Baskets

SUPPLIES: paper egg cartons, scissors, washable markers, cotton balls, facial tissue

Before class, cut apart the egg cups from paper egg cartons. You'll need one egg cup for each child.

Set out the egg cups, washable markers, cotton balls, and facial tissue. Invite children to decorate the egg cup "baskets" using colorful washable markers. Then have each child place a cotton ball "baby" in his or her basket and cover it with a folded facial tissue "blanket." Explain that baby Moses' mother hid him in a basket because she was afraid. Tell children that in today's Bible story, they'll hear how God took care of baby Moses and that **▶ *God is always with us when we're scared.***

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" with the CD (track 2) to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.


SING

**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: none

Tell children you'll clap three times to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, the children are to stop what they're doing and raise their hands. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Have children sit on the floor.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (Watched things sink and float; wove a basket; made a baby in a basket.)

Say: **Some of you found out about things that sink and float in water; some of you wove a big basket, and some of you made a tiny, little basket with a cotton ball baby inside. You were all learning important things about today's Bible story. Before we hear our story, let's have fun making a pretend river.**

Have children make a line facing you. Say: **First, we'll make our fingers ripple like little waves.** Show children how to make their fingers “ripple” as they move their hands back and forth. **Now let's say “swoosh, swoosh” to make the sound of the water rushing by.** Lead children in saying “swoosh” as they continue to ripple their fingers. **Our Bible story happens beside a great big river with lots of water; so let's make our ripples faster and our swooshes louder.** Let children enjoy making river sounds and motions for a few seconds. Then clap three times to get children's attention.

Ask: • **Who lives in a river?** (Fish; frogs; snails.)

• **Who lives near a river?** (Birds; bugs; spiders.)

Invite children to make sounds and motions like the creatures they mention.

Then say: **In our Bible story, a little girl named Miriam stood near a river and watched over her baby brother. He was hidden in a basket in tall grass at the edge of the river. Miriam felt a little scared, but she found out that** ▶ ***God is always with us when we're scared.*** Let's pretend to be frogs by the river and hop to our story area to find out what happened to Miriam.



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3 & 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.**

Lead children in singing “I'm So Glad for the Bible” with the *CD* (track 3) to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.” As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



SING

**I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.
I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *basket stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. As they come up to you to get their hands stamped, take time to show them the Bible and explain to them that the Bible is God's Word for them.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" with the *CD* (track 4) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



SING

**I'm so glad we're together:
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together:
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who's here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

teacher tips

Make sure to return Learning Lab items back to the box when you are finished using them so the items can be used in future lessons.

This Bible story is featured in the new *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, baskets made in Option 3, CD player



Gather the children around the *Learning Mat: Baby Moses*. Hand out the baskets children made during Option 3. Open the Bible to **Exodus 1:22–2:10**, and show the passage to your class. Say: **Our story comes from the Bible, God's special book. Our Learning Mat shows pictures of the Bible story.**

Let's play a game to see if you remember the story from last week. Place your baskets by Moses' little house at the corner of the Learning Mat. Pause for children to respond. **I'll ask you a few questions. If you think the answer to my question is "yes," sail your basket boats down the picture of the river. If the answer is "no," don't sail your basket boats.** Ask the following questions and guide children in "sailing" their boats.

- **Was Pharaoh a mean king?** (Yes—sail the boats.)
- **Did baby Moses' mommy hide him in a basket?** (Yes—sail the boats.)
- **Did baby Moses' uncle watch over the basket?** (No—don't sail the boats.)
- **Did a princess find baby Moses in his basket?** (Yes—sail the boats.)

Say: **Good for you! You remembered lots of things about our story. Today we have a special story surprise. A frog is going to tell us the Bible story! Whenever you hear the word *frog*, take one hop around the Learning Mat.**

Collect the baskets, and set them aside. Turn on the *CD* (track 6) and listen to "A Frog's Tale." Help children listen for the words *frog* or *frogs*, and then have them hop around the *Learning Mat*. When the story is finished, turn off the *CD*.

Say: **That was quite an exciting story! Do you think the little girl was scared as she sat alone by the river watching the basket?**

Encourage the children to offer their answers. Then say: **The little girl's name was Miriam. Miriam wasn't really alone because God was with her. God was with Miriam when she was scared, just as God is with each of you when you're scared. Our Bible verse says, ►"The Lord is always with me" (Acts 2:25a). Can you say that verse with me?** Help children repeat the verse with you.

Ask: • **When have you been scared?** (During a storm; when I was alone; when I'm in the dark.)

Say: ►***God is always with us when we're scared. We don't need to be afraid because God is with us just as he was with Miriam and her baby brother Moses. Let's play a fun game to remind us that God is with us all the time. We'll use our Learning Mat to play the game.***

◀ **BIBLE VERSE**

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: tape, paper plates or sheets of paper



Gather children at one end of the room. Tape paper plates or sheets of paper to the floor between the children and the *Learning Mat*. Have the *springfill* from the Learning Lab close by.

Ask: • **Who hid in the tall grass to watch over the baby in the basket?** (Miriam; a little girl; Moses' sister.)

Say: **Let's pretend we're little frogs who want to help hide Miriam. The paper plates are pretend lily pads. When I call your name, I'll give you some "grass." Then you can hop on the lily pads to the Learning Mat and lay your pieces of grass beside Miriam to help hide her. When you finish, hop back to me.**

As you call children's names, hand each of them a few "blades" of *springfill*, and let them take turns hopping to the *Learning Mat*.

After all the children have had a turn, say: **You did a good job helping Miriam hide in the grass. God was with Miriam and baby Moses and ►*God is always with us when we're scared.***



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



Closing

■ I'm Scared!

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.





(Pretend Whiskers is shivering and shaking.)

Teacher: *(Looking surprised)* Whiskers, what's wrong? You're shaking all over! Are you sick?

Whiskers: No, I'm not sick, but I'm scared!

Teacher: Why? What happened to make you scared?

Whiskers: Well, whenever I try to sleep, I hear *(make noises like a cricket chirping)*, "Chirp-chirp-chirp." Do you think it's a scary monster outside my window?

Teacher: Whiskers, there's no such thing as a monster. The noise you're hearing sounds like a cricket or a frog near your window. Frogs and crickets make sounds at night.

Whiskers: Are they chirping, "Good night, good night"?

Teacher: *(Laughing)* Maybe they're saying, ► "God is always with us when we're scared."

Whiskers: He is?

Teacher: Yes! God is with us all the time, and he doesn't want us to be scared. Children, let's tell Whiskers that God was with Miriam and baby Moses. *(Encourage children to retell the Bible story.)*

Whiskers: Thanks for telling me that exciting story, boys and girls. I'm so glad that ► God is always with us when we're scared. Now I won't be scared of those chirping noises anymore! 'Bye!

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Ask: • **What are some times when you feel scared?**
(When I go to bed at night; when a big dog barks at me.)

• **Why is it less scary when Jesus is with you?** (Jesus keeps me safe; Jesus takes care of me.)

Say: **Just as God was with Miriam as she watched Moses floating in the river, Jesus is always with you. God sent Jesus to be your forever friend. Let's thank Jesus for being with us when we're scared. He is always with you.**

Pray: **Dear Jesus, I'm so glad you are with us when we feel scared. Thank you for taking care of us and for being with us. In your name, amen.**

■ **Baby Moses Action Rhyme**

SUPPLIES: none

Say: Last week we learned an action rhyme about baby Moses. Let's say our rhyme again to remind us that ► God is always with us when we're scared.

Lead children in the following action rhyme. Repeat the rhyme two times.

Baby Moses went for a float (*move hands up and down in wavelike motion*)
In his little basket boat. (*Cup hands together.*)
Down the river, through the grass (*pretend to push aside tall grass*),
Sister Miriam watched him pass. (*Shade eyes with hand.*)

Then the princess heard him cry (*cup hand behind ear*),
And said, "What is that I spy?" (*Point in front of you.*)
It looks like a baby boy. (*Pretend to hold a baby.*)
He will be my pride and joy!" (*Clasp hands together and smile.*)

Miriam knew just what to do. (*Point to head.*)
She said, "I'll find some help for you." (*Nod head.*)
So Miriam brought her mother 'round (*beckon, as if calling for someone*),
And baby Moses was safe and sound. (*Pretend to hold and rock a baby.*)

When you're finished, say: **In fact ► God is always with us when we're scared.**
Let's thank God that he's with us all the time. Fold your hands. Pray: **Dear God,**
thank you for being with us all the time, even when we're scared. In Jesus'
name, amen.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Soapsuds**

Before this activity, fill a dishpan with mild, soapy water. Provide paper towels, and then invite children to take turns washing each other's hands. Point out that we wash our hands in sinks and take baths in bathtubs. Explain that when Moses was a baby, people often went to a river to take a bath. Remind the children that the princess in the Bible story took a bath in the river and that's when she found baby Moses.

■ **Make to Take: Grass Pictures**



Before class, gather a few cattails or long, sturdy blades of grass. Give each child a paper plate and a painting smock or a paper bag with a neck hole and armholes cut out. Set out a pan of thinned green tempera paint. Invite children to dip the tip of the grass in the tempera paint and “paint” designs on their paper plates. Remind children that Miriam hid in the tall grass by a river to watch over her baby brother. Explain that God was with Miriam and baby Moses and that ►God is always with us when we're scared.

■ **Treat to Eat: Wiggly Grass**

Before this activity, prepare a pan of green finger gelatin. Ask children to clean their hands with wet wipes. Then give each child a craft stick or a blunt plastic knife and a small block of finger gelatin on a paper plate. Encourage the children to slice their gelatin into long, thin pieces to represent blades of grass. As children gobble up their wiggly “grass,” remind them that Moses' mother placed his basket in the tall grass at the edge of a river while Miriam watched over the basket. Mention that God took care of Miriam and Moses and that ►God is always with us when we're scared.



■ **Story Picture: Moses in a Basket**

Before the lesson, cut sponges into 1-inch squares. Set out blue tempera paint, and have children put on paint shirts. Give each child a sponge and a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Invite children to sponge-paint the Nile River in their pictures. Remind children how God watched over baby Moses and Miriam at the river.

Today I learned...

God is always with us when we're scared.

Lesson 2
Today children learned that **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SCARED.** Children learned that God was with Miriam as she watched her baby brother Moses as his basket floated in the river. Children talked about fears and thanked God for being with them when they're scared.

Help me learn this:

"The Lord is always with me" (Acts 2:25a).

Ask me:

- How did Miriam feel as she watched over her baby brother?
- Tell me about a time you were scared.
- What can we remember when we feel scared?

Family Fun

- Go on a nighttime walk with your child. Help your child see that there's nothing to be afraid of in the dark—point out twinkling stars and try to identify the night sounds around you. As you walk, remind your child that God is with us all the time and that God is always with us when we're scared.

A Princess Finds Baby Moses (Exodus 2:3-6)



