

# Baby in a Basket

Lesson 1

## Bible Story

Exodus 1:8—2:10

## Teacher Challenge

Pharaoh had ordered all Hebrew baby boys to be thrown into the Nile River. Moses' parents had to risk losing their baby or see him die. So they put him in the Nile, in a waterproof basket, trusting God to do something miraculous. God honored their faith! He protected Moses and used him mightily. Now think about your own life.

- ➔ In what ways have you seen God care for you and protect you? What purpose or plans might God have for you?
- ➔ Take time to praise God for His protection and care in your own life.

The children in your class are not yet ready to discuss God's purpose for their individual lives. But it is critical that they learn the amazing and foundational truths that God cares for every aspect of their lives and that they can trust God's loving care, no matter what happens. As you pray for the children in your class or small group this week, ask God to help them come to know and accept His great love.

**God's Word**  
"God cares about you." (See 1 Peter 5:7.)

**God's Word and Me**  
God shows His care for me  
by giving people to love me.

## Teacher's Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.



# Play to Learn

Lesson 1

## Active Game Center: Caring Hats

### Collect

Bible, variety of real or dress-up hats (baseball cap, cowboy hat, police cap, bike helmet, stocking cap, ski hat, sun visor, fireman hat, etc.), masking tape, beanbag; optional—Lesson 1 Hat Patterns 1-8 from *Discovering God's Love* CD-ROM.

### Prepare

Place hats upside down in rows on the floor. (Optional: Place Hat Patterns from CD-ROM in rows on the floor.) Place a masking-tape line a few feet from the hats. (Note: Remove masking tape immediately after activity.)

### Do

1. Children stand behind masking-tape line. Children take turns tossing beanbag into or onto hats. Use the Talk About section below to discuss the wearer of the hat the beanbag lands in or near.
2. Repeat until each child has had at least one turn.

### Talk About

- ➔ **Elias, the beanbag landed near the baseball cap. Who do you know who wears a baseball cap? How does your baseball coach care for you?**
- ➔ **Delaney, who do you know who wears a visor? Your mom wears a visor when she goes jogging. What are some ways your mom cares for you?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "God cares about you." God shows His care by giving us people who love us!**
- ➔ **Who has God given to care for you? What are ways your babysitter cares for you?**
- ➔ Pray briefly, **Thank You, God, for caring for us.**



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### For Younger Children

Children simply name the person who would wear the hat in which their beanbag landed. Say, **God gives us police officers to care for us.**

### For Older Children

Place a sheet of paper next to each hat. As a child tells how someone who may wear each hat cares for him or her, print the child's response on paper.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 1

## Art Center: Give a Hug

### Collect

Bible, 12x18-inch (30.5x45.5-cm) construction paper in a variety of colors, scissors, paper plates, glue, markers; optional—Lesson 1 Hand Shape Patterns from *Discovering God's Love* CD-ROM.

### Prepare

Cut construction paper into 2x18-inch (5x45.5-cm) strips for arms, two for each child. Trace and cut two small hand shapes for each child. (Optional: Make copies of Hand Shape Patterns from CD-ROM onto construction paper and cut out.)

### Do

1. Children select two paper strip arms and two hands in the color of their choice. Children glue arms to back of paper plate, and glue hands to arms.
2. Children use markers to draw facial features and details on paper plate. Children make one fold in paper strip arms so puppet can “hug.”

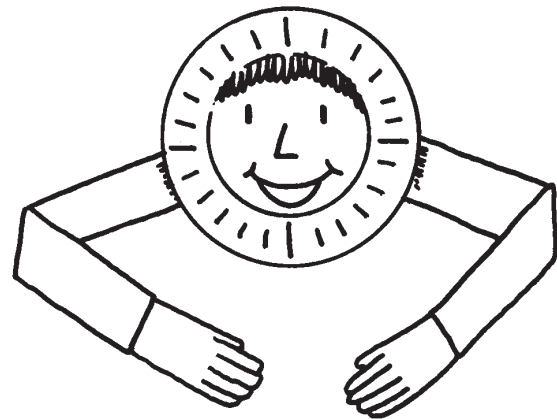
### Talk About

➔ **The Bible says, “God cares about you.” God cares about each one of us! God gives us people who love us. Let’s make puppets that show people who love us.**

➔ **Who cooks dinner for you? Who helps you take a bath? Get ready for bed? Get dressed? These are ways people care for you!**

➔ **What other things does your dad do to show his love for you? The Bible says, “God cares about you,” Ethan. God planned for people to take care of you.**

➔ **Who are some other people who love you? Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for giving me people to care for me.**



### For Younger Children

Draw facial features and glue arms and hands to plates before class. Children color puppets.

### For Older Children

Children trace and cut out their own handprints. Children make second Hug Puppets to give as thank-you gifts to people who care for them.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 1

## Block Center: River Blocks

### Collect

Bible, blue paper or fabric, blocks, toy people.

### Do

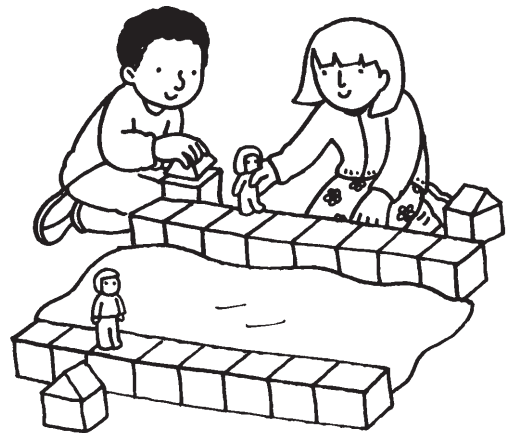
1. Place blue paper or fabric in block area to represent a river. Children outline the river with blocks and build houses near river.
2. Suggest family roles from the Bible story to interested children. Children choose who their toy people represent and then move them around houses and river as you talk about ways Moses' family cared for him, keeping him safe in a river.

### Talk About

- ➔ **Let's pretend our toy people are baby Moses' family. Baby Moses' family loved and cared for him. What do families do to care for their babies?**
- ➔ **God planned for families to have fun together. That's one way to show love for each other. What are some fun things Moses' big sister and brother might have done with him?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "God cares about you." God gives people to keep you safe. What is a way people help each other when they walk down the street? When they ride in a car? (Hold hands as they walk. Look both ways before crossing the street. Wear seat belts.)**

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### For Younger Children

Children build houses and play with people. If a child hesitates to use toy people, play along with the child. Your companionship will encourage participation.

### For Older Children

Provide a variety of shoe boxes. Children set up the boxes and label them as houses and a palace. Children may also use boxes as boats in the river.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 1

## Science Center: Sink or Float?

### Collect

Bible, dishpan with water, several towels, foil.

### Do

1. Place a towel under the dishpan with water. Give each child a piece of foil.
2. Children form basket shapes with foil and place in water.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story, a mother made a basket so that her baby could float safely on a river. Let's make some baskets that float.**
- ➔ **Moses' mother took care of her baby. What are some ways babies are cared for? Who feeds a baby? Gives a baby a bath?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "God cares about you." God gave you your family to love you and help you. Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for caring for us.**
- ➔ **God cares for us and gives us people to keep us safe. Who are some people who love you? What is something they do to take care of you?**



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### For Younger Children

Children take turns placing toys and household items (coin, pebble, pencil, spoon, etc.) in water to see whether they sink or float.

### For Older Children

Provide several small baskets. Children place baskets in water and observe water going through holes. Then children wrap foil around baskets and place in water. Describe how Moses' mother covered the basket with tar to make it waterproof so it would float.

# Listen to Learn

Exodus 1:8—2:10

Lesson 1

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 5 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1 CD* and player, beanbag.

## Greet Each Other

Lead children in saying the following rhyme:

**Hello, good friends, and how are you?**

**Say your name, and we'll clap for you.**

Toss a beanbag to a child. Child says his or her name and then the group claps.

Repeat the rhyme. Child tosses beanbag to another child. Continue game until all have had a turn to say their name.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Exodus 1. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 5 pictures.

**What is something people do to care for a baby? Listen to hear who God planned to take care of baby Moses.**



Our Bible tells us about a special family. This family had a dad, a mom, a big sister, a big brother and a **baby** brother. The baby's name was Moses.

Moses' family loved him very much. Moses' family took good care of him. Every day they fed baby Moses. They wrapped baby Moses in soft blankets. Every day they played with baby Moses. God planned for Moses to have a family to care for him.



But there was a mean king who wanted to hurt Moses. Moses' family must have been scared! God helped Moses' mom plan a way to keep her baby safe.

Moses' mom made a special basket. She put soft blankets in the basket. Then she carefully laid Moses in the basket. Moses' mom carried the basket with Moses to the river. She placed the basket on top of the water. Moses' big sister stayed with the basket and **watched** over Moses.



The king's daughter came to the river. The king's daughter wasn't mean. She was kind. She saw the basket. When she opened it, she found Moses crying. "This poor baby," she said. The king's daughter felt sorry for Moses. "This baby needs someone to care for him." Moses' big sister heard this. She went to the king's daughter.

"I will go get someone to care for the baby," Moses' big sister said. Then she **ran** to get Moses' mom.



Moses' mom took good care of him. The king's daughter made sure the mean king did not hurt the **baby**. Moses' family was glad God helped them keep Moses safe.

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## Talk About the Story

**Who took care of baby Moses?** (Mother, sister, family, princess.) **God showed His care for baby Moses by giving people to love him! God gives people to care for us, too. Who are some of the people God gives to love you? What are some of the things they do to take care of you?** (Cook food to eat. Give clothes to wear. Help when sick.)

**Option:** When you ask children to tell ways people care for them, print children's responses on large sheet of paper. Display paper so that it is visible to parents when children are dismissed.

## Sing to God

**Let's sing a song about God's love.** Lead children in singing "God Cares About You" (track 2 on CD). **Who are some people God cares about?**

**Option:** To make the Bible verse activity more of a challenge for older children, ask them to repeat verse and replace the word "you" with another child's name.

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to 1 Peter 5:7, say verse aloud. **The Bible says, "God cares about you." God gives people to love and care for us.** Lead children in saying the verse. First, children sit and say "God cares." Then children jump up, point to another child and say "about you!" Have children repeat the verse in this manner several times.

## Pray to God

**Let's thank God that He cares for us.** To complete the following prayer, volunteers take turns naming people who care for them: **Thank You, God, for the people who love and care for us. Thank You for . . .**

## Praise to God

**Let's march round and round as we sing.** Lead children in singing "Sing Praises" (track 16 on CD) as they march. **Marching with you is fun! I'm glad God cares for us and helps us do fun things like marching together.**

# Talk to Learn

Lesson 1

## Bible Story Activity Pages Center

### Collect

A copy of Activity 5 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, scissors, crayons or markers, tape.

### Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

## Preschool Puzzle Center

### Collect

Copies of Puzzles 1 and 2 (p. 9 and p. 11 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

### Do

Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

## Read-Aloud Story Center

### Collect

A copy of Story Picture 1 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers, scissors, tape.

### Do

Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.

