

**Supplies:** paper; scissors; glue; construction paper; clothes pin

## OPENING PRAYER

### TELL

- For the opening question, I'm going to ask you a question and then we'll go around the circle and say our names and then give our answer to the question.
- I'll ask the question and then I'll answer first, ok?
- Opening question: *In today's story, Moses' mother hides Moses in a basket on a river. Where's your favorite hiding place at home?*

## GO AROUND THE CIRCLE

### TELL

- During this Session (Patriarchs, Joseph and Moses), we've been talking and learning about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses.
- These 5 individuals had a lot to do with the beginning of who we call the Israelites.
- By learning the stories of these 5 individuals, we are also getting the chance to learn and see how the relationship between the Israelites and God starts, struggles, and matures.
- All of these stories that we're hearing and talking about in this Session are from the Old Testament. This means these things happened well before Jesus was born. Between 1600 to 2000 years before Jesus was born. This means some of these stories are 4000 years old!
- Last week we heard and talked about Joseph reconciling with his brothers, who sold him into slavery. Then the whole family moved to Egypt.
- Our story today starts 400 years after Joseph lived and some things have changed.

## READ Exodus 1:1-14, 22; 2:1-10

Exodus 1:1 These are the names of the sons of Israel (aka Jacob) who came to Egypt with him, each with his household: 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, 3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, 4 Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. 5 The total number of people born to Israel (aka Jacob) was seventy. Joseph was already in Egypt. 6 Then Joseph died, and all his brothers, and that whole generation. 7 But the Israelites were fruitful and prolific; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

8 400 years after Joseph, a new king arose over Egypt, one who did not even know the stories of Joseph. 9 This Pharaoh said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. 10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." 11 Therefore the Egyptians set taskmasters over the Israelites to oppress them with forced labor. 12 But the more the Israelites were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. 13 The Egyptians became

ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, 14 and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. 22 But because the Israelites continued to multiply and grow strong, Pharaoh then commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Exodus 2:1 Now a man from the house of Levi (a grand-grand child of one of the twelve brothers who was named Levi) went and married a Levite woman. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. 3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. 4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. 6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" 8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. 10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

### ASK

- When Israel/Jacob was still alive, he had 12 sons. So, adding up his sons and grandchildren, did you hear how many children he had? (70!)
- And then as 400 years passed, those 70 grew up, and had their own children, who then had their own children, who then had their own children, and so on, until the family of Israel was really, really big. What did the Egyptians think about this? (It scared them; they didn't like it)
- What did the Egyptians then do to the Israelites? (The Egyptians slowly enslaved them; gave them more and more tasks to do; eventually, they started to kill the Israelite baby boys)
- Do you remember who else was enslaved that we read about recently? (Joseph was by his own brothers)
- So where did Moses' mother hide baby Moses? (in a basket in the river)
- Why did she do this? (to save him from being killed by the Egyptians)
- Did someone find baby Moses? (Yes)
- Who? (an Egyptian Princess)
- What did she do to Moses? (adopt him)
- And who did she ask to help raise him? (Moses' mother)

### TELL

- The growth of the Israelite people is both exciting because God's promise is coming true, and sad, because this promise is happening under enslaved conditions.
- But just like God helped guide Joseph out of slavery, God will also help the Israelites out of slavery.
- And Moses will be the person who God will work with to set the Israelites free from slavery.

- And it all starts with Moses being found by an Egyptian Princess who didn't follow the rules of her father, the Pharaoh.

### **EXPLAIN ACTIVITY #1 – A Moses Basket Craft**

- We're going to make a our own little basket that might help us think about and remember Moses' humble beginning.
- The first thing you will need is a template that I'm passing out to you.
- On the picture you will notice dotted lines.
- You are to cut along the dotted lines
- Then cut 6 strips from construction paper that are the size of the bottom template piece. I have some pieces here that I've pre-cut, but these are simply to help you know how big to cut your strips.
- Once the strips are cut, weave the construction paper strips through the cuts you made in the template.
- Then glue the strips in place.
- Now, fold the basket along the solid lines.
- Using the small tabs at the end, fold them over and glue them in place.
- If you want, feel free to add a handle made of construction paper that arches over the basket.

### **DO Moses Craft**

If there's time....

### **EXPLAIN ACTIVITY #2 – Where's Baby Moses?**

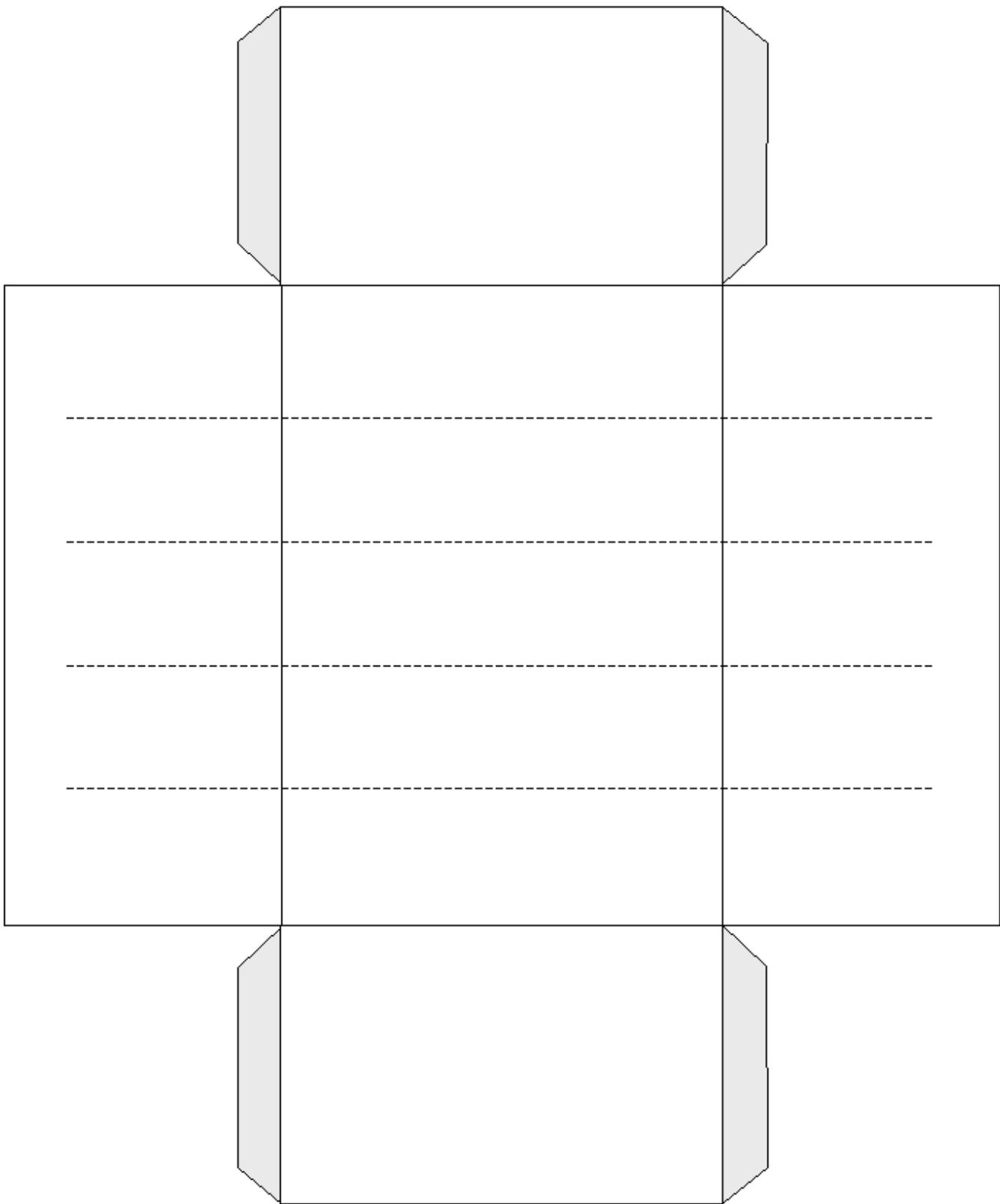
- Ok, we're going to pretend this clothespin is baby Moses.
- I need one volunteer who is willing to look for Baby Moses. [Choose a volunteer]
- How this works is that the volunteer is going to stand in the corner with his/her back to us and we're going to pass baby Moses around our little circle here until our volunteer says "STOP" very loudly.
- Then, whoever has baby Moses has to hide him in their fist, pant leg or sleeve.
- The volunteer then has 3 guesses to guess who has baby Moses.
- Whoever had baby Moses is the next volunteer.
- Any questions?

### **DO Hide and Find Baby Moses Activity**

#### **TELL**

- We have seen in a number of these stories during this session that God does not work in expected ways, but holds true to the promise that God made with Abraham.
- This story continues along that same idea: The people of Abraham, now known as the Israelite, certainly are growing bigger and bigger. The only problem is that they are enslaved.
- And then, the person who will lead them out of slavery started his life floating in a basket, hiding from the Egyptians before being adopted by an Egyptian princess.
- Next week, we'll find out how God will work with Moses to set the Israelites free.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**



Cut 6 strips of construction paper  
(different colors if you like) in this size.

**Cut out basket. Cut out dotted lines. Fold along solid lines. Weave construction paper. Glue or tape on small grey tabs to assemble basket.**