

**Bible Verse:** Exodus 2:3 (NIV)

“But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.”

**Story:** The family of Israel grows in Egypt. Children grow up and have children of their own. Grandchildren grow up and have more children too. And those children have grandchildren. Each of the twelve sons that came to Egypt fathers a whole tribe of Israelites. The Israelites stay loyal to their One God even though they are living in Egypt.

But things change in Egypt. A new Pharaoh has forgotten how Joseph helped Egypt. He has made the whole family of Israel, the Hebrews, into slaves. He even plans to kill every boy baby they have.

But a Hebrew mother named Jochebed makes a plan to save her baby boy. First, she keeps him hidden until he is three months old. Then she makes a waterproof basket for her baby. She puts him into the basket and sets it in the tall grass at the edge of the Nile River. She leaves the baby’s older sister Miriam to watch what happens.

Jochebed knows that the Pharaoh’s daughter comes to bathe at that place.

Pharaoh’s daughter does come. She finds the basket and opens it. Inside, she finds a crying baby! The Pharaoh’s daughter knows it is a Hebrew baby boy, but she decides to adopt him and to name him Moses.

Miriam pretends she doesn’t know the baby. She offers to find a Hebrew nurse to help Pharaoh’s daughter take care of Moses. Can you guess who became the baby’s nurse? Jochebed herself! So now Moses is protected by the Pharaoh’s daughter and also safe with his own mother to care for him.

And when Moses grows up, he becomes an important part of God’s plan. Moses will be the one to lead the people of Israel out of slavery and away from Egypt.

**Wonder Question:** What do you think Moses’ mother was thinking when she placed baby Moses in the basket, in the water?

