

The Midwives Listen to God

Exodus 1 - 2:8

PPT Title

The Midwives and Moses' parents listen to God!

Main Point: There is blessing in listening to God and obeying Him.

PPT Verse

Key Verse: *Shiphrah and Puah had respect for God. So He gave them families of their own.* - Exodus 1:18-21

INTRODUCTION



Say: In the book of Genesis, God made a wonderful promise to Abraham that his descendants would be MORE than the number of stars in the sky and more than the grains of sand on the beach! We know that God ALWAYS keeps His promises.

Ask: Who can tell me what "descendants" means? *a person's children, grand children, great-grandchildren, etc.*

PHAROAH'S ORDERS (Exodus 1)

Say: Now we are going to study the second book of the Bible: Exodus.



Look at the first two letters in the word "**EXODUS**", and this will help you remember what this book in the Bible is all about: **EXIT!** The book of Exodus is the story of the Abraham's descendents, the Israelites, exiting Egypt.



By this time, Abraham had MILLIONS of descendants! Because God kept His promise to Abraham, there were many people who believed and trusted in God. There were so many Israelites in the land of Egypt, that the king of Egypt, the Pharaoh, was worried. Listen to what he said:

"Look," he said to his people. "The Israelites are far too many for us. Come. We must deal with them carefully. If we don't, they will increase their numbers even more. Then if war breaks out, they'll join our enemies. They'll fight against us and leave the country." So the Egyptians put slave drivers over the people of Israel. The slave drivers beat them down and made them work hard. The Israelites built the cities of Pithom and Ramses so Pharaoh could store things there. - Exodus 1:9-11



Pharaoh had no idea how powerful God was, and He didn't understand how much God would protect His own people. The harder Pharaoh tried to make things difficult for God's people, the Israelites, the more God blessed them and protected them.

But the more the slave drivers beat them down, the more the Israelites increased their numbers and spread out. So the Egyptians became afraid of them. - Exodus 1:12

Say: Since making them slaves and increasing their work didn't seem to be working, Pharaoh had another idea. He called in the midwives (the women who helped babies being born) and ordered them to KILL all the baby boys. Pharaoh thought that by killing all the baby boys, he could reduce the strength and the number of Israelites. He intended to make sure there were never enough young men to fight in an army against the Egyptians. But the Bible is very clear: Killing babies is WRONG (Psalm 106:38, Proverbs

6:16-17)!

Ask: To whom should these midwives listen: God or Pharaoh? *God.*
*But Shiphrah and Puah (the midwives) had respect for God. They didn't do what the king of Egypt had told them to do. **They let the boys live.*** - Exodus 1:17

Note to the Teacher: God honors these women even by mentioning their names in scripture. Not once is the Pharaoh's name mentioned, yet these two godly women are mentioned by name! *"The memory of the righteous will be a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot."* - Proverbs 10:7

Then the king of Egypt sent for the women. He asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?"

The women answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like the women of Egypt. They are strong. They have their babies before we get there."

*So God was kind to Shiphrah and Puah. And the people of Israel increased their numbers more and more. Shiphrah and Puah had respect for God. **So He gave them families of their own.*** - Exodus 1:18-21

Say: There is blessing in obedience. Obeying God is ALWAYS the right choice!



Then Pharaoh gave an order to all of his people. He said, "You must throw every baby boy into the Nile River. But let every baby girl live." - Exodus 1:22

How terrifying! What kind of king would make such a law? And what kind of person would throw a baby into a river?

Pharaoh's plans were not working. Even though the Egyptians had forced the Israelites to become slaves, the Israelites were still having babies, and the midwives would not kill them. So now, Pharaoh made another desperate attempt to kill the baby boys.

Ask: Was Pharaoh listening to God? *NO! Pharaoh was NOT listening to God.*

Say: In Genesis chapter 3, God promised that the Deliverer would be male and born of a woman (Genesis 3:15 & Genesis 12:1-3). And in Genesis 12:3, God promised this Deliverer would be one of Abraham's descendants (Galatians 3:8). When Pharaoh ordered that all baby boys be killed, he was being used by Satan to try to eliminate the birth of our Savior.

Ask: Will God keep His promise to send a Deliverer? *YES! God ALWAYS keeps His promises.*

MOSES IS BORN (Exodus 2:1-8)



Say: There was an Israelite couple from the tribe of Levi, Amram and Jochebed who had a baby boy (Exodus 6:20). The Bible says that he was a "fine child". There was something special about him. (Hebrews 11:23 says that he was no ordinary child).

Note to the Teacher: I would therefore suggest that Moses is not telling us that God moved his parents to hide him because they were convinced that there was something very special (either in appearance or in purpose) about him as a particular child, but rather that they saw something special about him as a child, period. You see, the biblical perspective is that **children come from God** (cf. Ps. 127). **Every child is the product of divine creation (cf. Ps. 139:13-14), and thus is "good" in the eyes of God. Moses' parents refused to put their child to death because God had created him, and because this meant that, this child (like every other child ever born) was good in God's eyes.**

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Say: By faith, Moses' parents hid him for three months, but soon hiding him became impossible. Can you imagine how difficult it would be to hide a baby? Moses' mother got a papyrus basket and coated it with tar and pitch to keep out water. (This was the same kind of tar that Noah used to waterproof the Ark). She placed Moses into the basket, and set it in the reeds of the Nile River. Miriam, Moses' sister, was sent to see what would happen to him.

Just at that time, Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile River to wash. She saw the basket in the reeds and heard the baby crying.

Ask: What was Pharaoh's law? *That all baby boys be thrown into the Nile River.* Should Pharaoh's daughter obey his wicked plan? *No.*

Say: Pharaoh's daughter felt sorry for the baby, and she wanted to keep him as her own. Although Pharaoh's daughter wanted to keep the baby, she had to figure out a way to feed the baby. There were no baby bottles back then. All babies were fed from their mother's body. It was then that Miriam appeared. She told Pharaoh's daughter that she would find someone to feed the baby.

Then his sister spoke to Pharaoh's daughter. She asked, 'Do you want me to go and get one of the Hebrew women? She could nurse the baby for you.'

'Yes. Go,' she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother.

Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this baby. Nurse him for me. I'll pay you.' So the woman took the baby and nursed him." - Exodus 2:7-9a

Isn't God wonderful? Not only did Moses' mother get to keep her own baby, but she was even PAID to feed him! The Bible says that after the baby could drink from a cup, he was taken to Pharaoh's house where he became Pharaoh's daughter's son. Here he was named MOSES, which means, "drawn from the water".

Note to the Teacher: Think about it for a moment. Pharaoh's daughter refused to abide by her father's orders by taking Moses out of the water, and then she takes a Hebrew child home with her as her son. Now, in the palace of the Pharaoh whose orders were, "Throw them in the water!" there is a Hebrew boy whose name means, "Taken from the water." There is, in my mind, no way that Pharaoh could have enforced his decree when his own daughter disobeyed it when living testimony of this disobedience (namely Moses) lived in the palace of Pharaoh, under his protection. **Once again, Pharaoh's efforts to destroy the people of God are turned inside-out,** resulting in the fulfillment of His promises concerning the blessing of His people, Israel. Once again, God has providentially preserved and prospered His people. Moses has been spared, and so have the other Israelite boy babies; now there is a Hebrew living in the palace, part of the royal family.

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Say: The midwives and Moses' parents LISTENED TO GOD and obeyed His ways. God blessed them both! Moses was safe, and God was going to use him in a wonderful way to set his people free!

PPT Main Point

Main Point: There is blessing in listening to God and obeying Him.