



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for January 4, 2009
Released on Wednesday, December 31, 2008**

"Help from Faithful Women"

Lesson: Exodus 1:8–21.

Devotional Reading: Proverbs 16:1–7.

Background Scripture: Exodus 1:8–21.

Read: Exodus 1:8–21.

Place: Egypt

Time: about 1525B.C.

GOLDEN TEXT: "The midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive" (Exodus 1:17).

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:

Exodus 1:8–21

8Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

9And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we:

10Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.

11Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.

12But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

13And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:

14And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour.

15And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah:

16And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live.

17But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

18And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?

19And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them.

20Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.

21And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.

TEACHERS'S NOTES ON THE LESSON

The people of Egypt had good reason to be grateful to Joseph, and they were. Because of his wise counsel, they were able to survive a seven-year famine. The Egyptians held Joseph in high honor. In light of Middle East customs, we may safely assume that similar honor was accorded to Joseph's family, who had come into Egypt to escape the famine and remained.

But man has a short memory. After some years, a new pharaoh came to the throne who had no sense of debt to Joseph or to Joseph's people.

Joseph's people disturbed pharaoh. There were too many. He tried to solve the problem by enslaving them. They continued to multiply. As a "final solution," he decreed killing all their male children at birth.

Were there more than two midwives to serve the thousands of Hebrews? Undoubtedly, but the Bible focuses on Shiphrah and Puah.

These two women were devoted to God, something they would soon demonstrate by their actions. Can you imagine their reaction when they heard what the pharaoh was now requiring?

How can we do such a thing? But the command has come from Pharaoh. How can we not do what he commands? He will have our heads if we do not. Yet how can we do something that is so abhorrent to the Lord our God?

The Bible gives no clue as to how long Shiphrah and Puah took to reach their decision, but both determined to do what God wanted, regardless of any cost to themselves. They spared every newborn child.

God rewarded the midwives for what they did. He made them mothers of families themselves, something highly valued in that culture.

Note that He did not commend them for lying, if they were indeed lying. It is possible they were not. It is possible they were cleverly sabotaging Pharaoh's plans by intentionally arriving late, thus giving the mothers time to be safely gone with the babies before they arrived.

In any case, the midwives' commitment to obey God brought about a good outcome. The lives of countless baby boys were saved for some life ministry later. The plans of God for the Hebrew nation were carried forward. (For thousands of years Satan has been trying unsuccessfully to destroy the Jewish people.) The midwives themselves received the Lord's special "wee done"—in this case the reward of family.

Of course, the message we bring the children is that going God's way always results in good. We may not see that good right away, but many times we do see how others are helped. Sometimes God rewards us here on earth. (We know He will in heaven.) And always God's purposes are forwarded when we do what He says.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Using the midwives' experience as an example, teach that our obedience to God will always somehow result in good for others, for ourselves, and for what God wants accomplished.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. The midwives loved God and determined to obey Him.
2. The immediate good was that babies' lives were saved, and God was pleased.
3. Because of their obedience, God blessed the midwives personally.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

For Telling the Lesson, find or make stick-figure pictures of a king or a crown, a baby, and two women to represent the midwives.

For Telling How to Live, find or make three signs: "OTHERS," "GOD," and "ME."

For Helping to Remember, provide a plain white paper plate and crayons for each student.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Did you ever have to say no to something one of your friends wanted to do? Ricky did. It happened the day the teacher gave the class a spelling test.

Pete sat besides Ricky. Pete was the biggest, meanest boy in Ricky's room. Ricky was a little afraid of him.

Pete whispered, "Did you study the words?"

Ricky nodded. He was sure he could spell every one.

"Then you better let me see your paper or else," Pete whispered back in a threatening way.

What should he do? Pete was so big and mean. But showing him the spelling words would help Pete cheat.

Ricky did some fast thinking. He knew what would please Jesus. He decided he was safe to do what was right and let Jesus take care of what happened.

He shook his head. No, he would not show Pete the words. He chose to do things God's way.

Today's Bible story is about some women who had to decide whether they would do things God's way or not. This is what happened.

TELLING THE LESSON:

Long ago there was a king who was not a good king. (Show king.) But people had to do what he said anyway.

God's people lived in the king's country in those days. One day the king said, "Who are all those people? There are too many of them."

The king thought and thought. "I know what I will do!" he said. "I will make all those people work for us."

The king told God's people, "Start making bricks. You must build cities for us." He put some of his own men in charge of them, and sometimes those men were not very kind.

None of that was good, but God's people had to do what the king said.

After a while things got even worse. The king looked around again. (Show king.) He said, "There are still too many of those people. I know what I will do. I will kill all their new baby boys." (Show baby.)

But God always knows what to do about it. He often uses people in some way to get done what He wants. You remember that when Jesus was born, God sent some shepherds to spread the news. We do not even know those shepherds' names, but they were important because they said yes to what God wanted done.

In today's story it was some women, called midwives, who did an important thing that God wanted done. (Show midwives.) They had to say no to a king.

Midwives are a kind of nurse. They help new mothers with their babies. The Bible tells the names of two of these helpers. There would have been many new mothers among God's people, so there were probably more than two midwives. But the Bible tells us about just two of them, Shiphrah and Puah. Those names sound strange to us, but they were pretty names at that time.

One day somebody brought the midwives the sad news about the king's new law. The king said they had to start killing the baby boys as soon as they were born. (Show baby.)

Now, the midwives knew that if they did not do what the king said, they would be in big trouble, but they also knew that God did not want them to kill babies. What should they do? Should they do what the king said or what God said?

We do not know how long the midwives thought about that, but we do know what they did. The Bible says that they made up their minds to do things God's way. (Point to Exodus 1 in your Bible.) They would do what He wanted and trust Him to take care of what happened.

So the midwives kept every baby alive, just as God wanted.

Of course, God knew what the women were doing. He knew they had chosen to please Him, no matter what the king did. God did take care of what happened. Because the midwives chose God's way, He gave them nice families of their own.

So once again good things happened because people said yes to what the Lord wanted them to do. All those baby boys got to stay alive, the Lord was pleased, because that was something He wanted to happen, and He was especially good to the midwives themselves because they made up their minds they would obey Him. (Count on fingers.)

That is the way it always is. When people do what pleases the Lord, He will always make good things happen at the right time.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Every story in the Bible is there to teach us something, boys and girls. Did you hear what this one is saying? This story says: Never, never, never forget that the best way to do things is always God's way, no matter what anybody else wants or says or does.

Remember too that when you do what Jesus wants, you can be sure good things will happen: other people will get the help they need, you will make God happy, and you are going to be glad too. (Show "OTHERS," "GOD," and "ME.")

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Have the children draw the largest triangle they can fit onto the flat surface of their plates. On the left side-line they will print "OTHERS," on the right side "ME," and under the base line "GOD." Inside the triangle they should draw a large, happy face and then decorate the plate edge as they like.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

"The midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive" (Exodus 1:17).

Midwives are like nurses who took care of new mothers. "Feared" in this verse means they knew how great God was, and they tried to please Him. These women loved the Lord.

The king had made a sad rule. He said, "Kill all the new boy babies!" But the midwives knew God would not want them to do that, so they kept the baby boys alive.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:

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MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:
"Help from Faithful Women" Exodus 1:8–21.



GOLDEN TEXT: "The midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive" (Exodus 1:17).

MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:
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CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

1. "Now there arose up a new [**CAPTAIN, KING**] over Egypt, which knew not [**JOSEPH, JUDAH**]." Exodus 1:8
2. "And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of [**ISIS, ISRAEL**] are more and mightier than we." Exodus 1:9
3. "Come on, let us deal [**JUSTLY, WISELY**] with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that when there falleth out any [**WAR, CELEBRATION**], they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land." Exodus 1:10
4. "Therefore they did set over them [**TASKMASTERS, DISEASES**] to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for [**RAMSES, PHARAOH**] treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses." Exodus 1:11

TRUE OR FALSE:

5. The more the Egyptian slave masters afflicted the Israelites, the weaker the Israelites became and the fewer in number they were.
Exodus 1:12 **TRUE OR FALSE**
6. The mean Egyptian slave masters made the children of Israel work harder and harder. Exodus 1:13 **TRUE OR FALSE**
7. The Egyptian Pharaoh told Shiphrah and Puah—the midwives—to save all the baby boys they helped birth, but to kill the baby girls they helped birth.
Exodus 1:16 **TRUE OR FALSE**

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

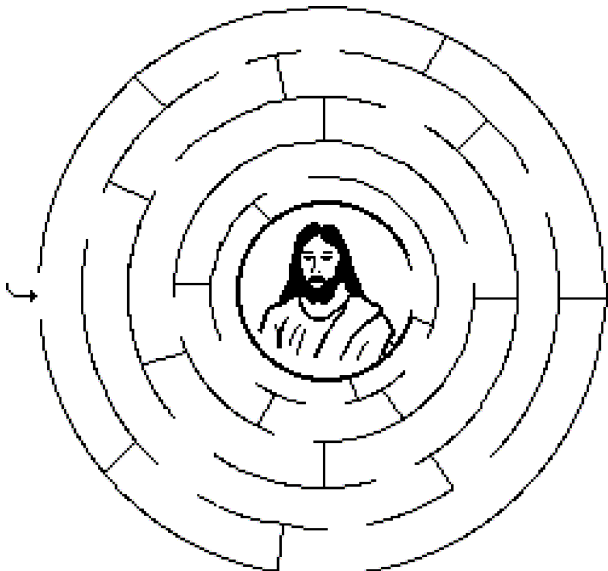
8. "But the midwives [**IGNORED, FEARED**] God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the [**MEN, WOMEN**] children alive." Exodus 1:18
9. "Therefore God dealt well with the [**SLAVE MASTERS, MIDWIVES**]: and the people multiplied, and waxed very [**MIGHTY, WEAK**]." Exodus 1:20
10. "And it came to pass, because the midwives feared [**GOD, PHARAOH**], that he made them houses." Exodus 1:21

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON CROSSWORD PUZZLE:
 "Help from Faithful Women"
 Exodus 1:8–21.**

U R E T T I B M A P C B Z R T
 Q F N N L V A X N M Q R Z P F
 S O M S G B Q T M L I B K I A
 S P H Z R Q F Y R E E G C Q Y
 I E T C I L F F A A I A H D Y
 L O L K Q Y H L M S T K R T O
 E O D B I E P F F G W R T S Y
 G C R Z P L J I R D Z E O J I
 Y T N A N E V O C U P F R M F
 P F E F H N T O H E I O I Q V
 T K U H Z K B V A P G T O R M
 S B W N I V C Q W I K J F I S
 B O N D A G E I R Z Q T T U V
 J Y J G V Q I Z R C J E A L L
 F G N I K T A U X B B J N S M

AFFLICT	COVENANT	KING
BITTER	EGYPT	MIGHTY
BONDAGE	FRUITFUL	MORTAR
BRICK	ISRAEL	RIGOR

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON MAZE:
 "Help from Faithful Women" Exodus 1:8–21.**



CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWER THAT COMPLETES THIS TEXT:

1. "The midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but..." Exodus 1:17

- a. ...did what they wanted to do because they were tired.
- b. ...they saved all the girl babies instead.
- c. ...they dealt with the king of Egypt in their own way.
- d. ...saved the men children alive.
- e. ...they rose up to fight against the slave masters.

FILL IN THE BLANK:

2. "And the midwives said unto _____, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are _____ ere the midwives come in unto them." Exodus 1:19

DELIVERED
MOSES
BREATHLESS
PHAROAH
STRONG

Have a blessed New Year! From all of us, at Jesus Is All Ministries.

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