

BADGER ASSEMBLY STORIES

WITH CHRISTIAN THEMES

Ages 5-7

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Cover photograph: Educational Solutions Ltd

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INTRODUCTION

There are 25 assemblies for children aged 5-7 in this book, all with Christian themes. Each assembly begins with an introduction and then a main presentation, usually given by the teacher. There are both interactive and non-interactive follow up ideas and every assembly concludes with an optional reflection or prayer. The assemblies use a wide range of stimulus material:

- Bible stories
- Original stories
- Poems and excerpts from children's books
- 'True life' stories: factual accounts of people's lives
- Factual accounts of events
- Information, e.g. about the work of Christian organisations
- Mini drama sketches for children to perform, with play scripts

There is a link to the most relevant RE Unit from the QCA Scheme of Work in each assembly.

Follow up

Each assembly presentation is followed by suggestions for interaction to involve the audience in the assembly, and to reinforce learning. Interactive follow up activities include:

- Closed and open questions
- Active response, e.g. vote, hands up, thumbs up or down
- Choral responses: finishing off statements
- Use of volunteers to assist at the front
- Discussion

Non-interactive follow up suggestions include: a summary of the story; points to think about; reflection and prayer.

Using the material

The assemblies in the book are designed to be used flexibly: it is intended that teachers select the most appropriate follow up activities and questions from the range provided in order to meet the needs of the children present. The basic core presentation of each assembly may also be adapted to suit the school, of course, and may be used, for example, in circle time as the basis for role play or other drama or for classroom discussion. Questions to stimulate response from the children might include:

- What might it feel like to be in this situation?
- Have you experienced a situation like this in real life?
- Why did the characters do what they did?
- Were they right/wrong?

What makes a successful assembly?

Good preparation is essential, particularly if drama is involved. Other key pointers:

- Use of props or a visual focus (suggestions are included in the book; don't forget an OHP or data projector can be used if you can't find the object suggested).
- Relate the contents of the assembly to activities going on in the school or community.
- Interactivity: music, songs, drama or any kind of audience participation generates interest.
- Use the story or presentation to make a single clear learning point, which can be reinforced in the reflection or prayer at the end of the assembly.

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I MOSES IN THE BASKET

Objective

To help children understand one of the most well-known Old Testament stories.

RE links

QCA Scheme of Work Unit 2A: What is the Torah and why is it important to Jewish people?

Props

(Not essential): a basket big enough to hold a baby.

Introduction

Today, there are many Jewish people in the world. But a very long time ago, the Jews were nearly completely destroyed. It took a very brave woman and a basket to save them, and God, of course: here's the story.

BIBLE STORY: MOSES IN THE BASKET (Bible ref: Exodus 2:1-10)

A great many ages ago, before machines and roads and books, the people of Israel, the Hebrews, lived in a foreign land called Egypt. The people of Israel were God's special people and He wanted to give them a land of their own. First they had to leave the country of Egypt, but this they could not do because they were slaves.

The king of Egypt was called Pharaoh and he was worried about the people of Israel. 'There are so many of them that one day they might take over our country. We must put them to work as slaves.' And so the Egyptian masters put the people of Israel to work as slaves: they built cities and monuments and they farmed the land, and the work was hard and endless.

Even though the people of Israel were treated cruelly, God still looked after them, and each family had lots of strong, healthy children. Pharaoh noticed this and saw that their numbers grew and grew. 'I must stop them or these Hebrews will overthrow us,' he thought.

Pharaoh tried all sorts of things to stop the people of Israel becoming a larger and larger nation, but nothing seemed to work. In the end he came up with a plan which was evil and terrible and cruel. He ordered his soldiers to throw every Hebrew baby boy into the River Nile.

Now, at this time, there was an Hebrew woman called Jochabed who was expecting a baby. When the baby was born it turned out to be a boy. She called him Moses, and then she hid him away, fearing that the Egyptian soldiers would find him and take him away. It was a very risky thing to do and after three months she knew that she had to do something else or she would be found out.

Jochabed prayed to God to save Moses, her baby boy. Then she wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a basket. She covered the outside of the basket with sticky black tar, which is waterproof, and she took it down to the banks of the River Nile. It was a desperately hard thing for a mother to do, but Jochabed knew that it was her only hope of saving her son. She prayed that he would be safe from the crocodiles and boats, and she asked God to watch over him until he was safely in the hands of a caring person. Then, slowly and carefully, she placed the basket containing little Moses onto the water and gave it a push. As she watched it float away, she wiped her eyes and turned back for home.

Now later on that day, a mile or so downstream, the Pharaoh's daughter, a princess, was bathing in the river as she did every day. Out of the corner of her eye she saw a dark shape in the reeds and heard a sound. "It sounds like a baby crying," she thought to herself. The princess, ordered one of her slaves to have a look. The woman brought the basket to the princess who looked inside and then lifted out baby Moses. He was crying with hunger. "The poor little thing," she said. "This is one of the Hebrew babies." And she immediately felt sorry for him.

Now, as it happened, Moses had an older sister who was another slave of the princess. She knew that this was her baby brother that had been found and so she went over to the princess. "Shall I get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

"Yes," said Pharaoh's daughter. "That's a good idea, go." So Moses' sister went to fetch his mother. And so the princess asked Jochabed to look after her own son for her, and what is more, she paid her to do it too.

Moses grew up in the royal palace of Pharaoh and became a prince of Egypt. And later on, when he grew into a man, God set him in place as the leader of the Hebrews, the one who took them out of slavery and back to the promised land of Israel.

INTERACTIVE FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

Questions

- 1) Why was Pharaoh worried about the Hebrews? *(There were so many of them; he thought that they might take over Egypt.)*
- 2) Why did Jochabed put baby Moses in a basket on the River Nile? *(To save him from Pharaoh's soldiers, who were killing every Hebrew baby boy.)*
- 3) What happened to Moses? *(He was found by a princess, and brought up by his own mother.)*

Getting the message

- 1) Why did God look after Moses? *(Because later on as a man, he would lead the people out of Egypt to the promised land.)*
- 2) Why did the Hebrews want to leave Egypt? *(They were slaves, treated cruelly; God had promised them their own land: Israel.)*

3) Hands up:

- Who thinks Pharaoh was cruel to the Hebrews?
- Who thinks Jochabed, the mother of Moses was very brave?
- Who thinks it was just lucky that the princess found Moses in the basket?
- Who thinks God kept Moses safe?
- Who thinks it is right that some people are slaves?

NON-INTERACTIVE FOLLOW UP

Summary of the story

- The Hebrews lived in Egypt after the time of Joseph.
- Pharaoh was worried because their numbers were so great.
- The Israelites became slaves and were treated harshly.
- Pharaoh ordered that all Hebrew baby boys should be thrown in the river.
- Jochabed, a Hebrew woman, put her baby boy Moses in a waterproof basket on the Nile and prayed for his safety.
- He was found by the Pharaoh's daughter, a princess.
- Moses was nursed by his own mother and went on to become an important prince, and later the man who led the Hebrews out of slavery and towards the promised land.

Reflection

We should be grateful that we live in times when slavery is against the law and where kings and queens cannot order children to be harmed. Let us be thankful for the peaceful times that we live in.

Prayer

Lord God, thank You for the story of Moses. Thank You that we no longer live in times when many people are kept as slaves and treated in cruel ways. But please look after those people around the world who are suffering cruel treatment at this time. Set them free, like You set the Hebrews free from Egypt. Amen.

[Note: The Ten Plagues assembly follows on the story from this assembly.]