

Unit 1: Lifeline

Faith Focus: God rescues us.

The LORD is my strength and my power; he has become my salvation. (Exodus 15:2)

SESSION 1

GROW IN FAITH

Baby Moses Is Saved—Exodus 1:8-14; 2:1-10

The Israelites had lived and thrived in Egypt for many years. But times changed, people died, and new kings came to power. A new king became afraid of the Israelites and forced them into slavery. Yet even after they were enslaved, the number of Israelites continued to grow. As a way to control their population, the king decreed that all Hebrew baby boys must be drowned in the Nile River.

Into this hostile environment a Hebrew baby boy was born. His mother, who was understandably unwilling to follow the king's decree to drown her baby, hid him for three months. But as the baby grew, she knew she could not hide him forever. She decided to put her child in a basket in the Nile River, hoping to float him to safety. Pharaoh's daughter discovered him. Pharaoh's daughter took pity on the child, whom she recognized as a Hebrew baby who was supposed to be drowned, and chose to save his life. This baby was rescued and would grow up to help rescue God's people.

- Play with babies and baskets.
- Learn about safety.

SUPPLIES

crayons

scissors

CEB Bible storybook

TV and DVD player or streaming device

sticky notes

pencils

plastic tub

water

assorted items that will float and not float

tarp or plastic tablecloths

life preserver ring or child-size swim rings

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—God Rescues Us

Helpers All Around (Puzzle)

FUN WITH FAITH

Water Play (Sensory)

Rescuing Friends (Game)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with the supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15), Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 2 & 23), and Unit 1 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Fall Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the basket sticker on the Session 1 space.

SAY: This month we will hear stories about how God rescues God's people. A rescue is like helping someone in a really big way.

ASK: Has someone ever helped you in a big way? What happened?

Faith Focus—God Rescues Us

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 2 & 23). Photocopy "Connect and Rescue" (Leader Guide—p. 16) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Connect and Rescue."

SAY: Today we are learning about how God helps us when we are in trouble.

ASK: How does God help you? Do you think God helps other people?

- Give children time to color the page, connecting the dots by following the numbers in order.

SAY: In our Bible story today, we will hear how a baby named Moses was hidden in a basket on the river. God rescued baby Moses by guiding people to help him.

Helpers All Around

Supplies: Activity Sheets, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Helpers All Around" (Session 1 Activity Sheet) for each child.

SAY: God cares for us and rescues us by sending people who are helpers to us. When baby Moses was in danger, God rescued him by sending many different helpers to him.

ASK: Who is a helper to you?

- Help each child cut out the puzzle along the lines.
- Invite the children to put the puzzle pieces back together.

SAY: All of the people in our puzzle were sent by God to help baby Moses. Each of them helped God rescue Moses from a bad situation.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB Bible storybook

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read the story of baby Moses (Exodus 1:8-14; 2:1-10) from your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

SAY: When Moses' mother knew she couldn't hide her baby any longer, she trusted that God would help. God helped Moses by bringing the pharaoh's daughter to rescue him from the river.

ASK: How do you think Moses felt when he was in the basket? How do you think he felt after he was rescued?

Big Faith Video

Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device

- Watch the Session 1 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Share the questions on the screen with the children. You may also choose to add your own questions. Give children time to share their responses and ideas.

ASK: What was your favorite part of the video?

Faith Response

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, sticky notes, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 1 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14) and Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) if you haven't already.

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: God rescues and helps us because God wants us to be safe.

ASK: How do you stay safe? Does anyone help you make safe choices?

SAY: God keeps us safe, like a life jacket when we are swimming or on a boat. We have to make safe choices and help others around us stay safe, too.

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Give each child a sticky note. Encourage them to draw on the note something that they use to be safe (seatbelt, life jacket, bicycle helmet, knee pads, swim floaties, and so forth).

ASK: What helps you be safe?

- As they share, invite children to place their sticky notes on the poster.

FUN WITH FAITH

Water Play

Supplies: plastic tub, water, assorted items that would float and not float (such as water toys, swim floaties, swim noodle, rubber duck, piece of wood, small rocks, and so forth), tarp or plastic tablecloths

Prepare Ahead: Use a tarp or plastic tablecloths to prepare a space for the water play. Put the plastic tub in the prepared space and fill with water. Gather floating and non-floating items around the plastic tub, not yet in the water.

SAY: The story of baby Moses reminds us that it is important to practice safety when we play in water. We can be safe by holding on to things that float when we play in or around water.

- Show the children each item and have them guess if it will float or not.

ASK: What makes you think something will or will not float?

- Test whether each item floats or sinks in the water.

SAY: When baby Moses was in the basket, he stayed safe because he floated. And then God sent the pharaoh's daughter to rescue Moses. God helped Moses stay safe.

Rescuing Friends

Supplies: life preserver ring or child-sized swim rings

Prepare Ahead: Clear a large space suitable for running around.

- Show the children a life preserver ring/swim ring.

ASK: What does a life preserver ring do? (*helps you swim, rescues people*)

SAY: Life preserver rings float so that if someone is having trouble swimming, they can hold the life preserver ring and float. They rescue us, just like God rescues us.

- Play a game of freeze tag. Place the life preserver ring in the center of the area.
- Pick one child to be the freezer. That child's job is to freeze as many people as possible by tagging them.
- Children who are not frozen can unfreeze someone by bringing that person the life preserver ring. If you have a large group, use more than one ring.
- After a child is unfrozen using the life preserver ring, he or she can use the ring to unfreeze someone else or put it back in the center of the space.
- After you have played the game several times with different freezers, gather the children into a circle around the life preserver ring.

ASK: How did it feel to be the freezer? How did it feel to be frozen?

SAY: God rescues us in times of trouble. God shows us how to help each other, too.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Fall Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21).

Photocopy the Unit 1 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 91–92) for each child.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

SAY: God loves us all the time. When we are in trouble, God is our rescuer.

ASK: How did God rescue baby Moses? Who helped God rescue Moses?

SAY: We can help God rescue others if they listen to God and follow God. We can be helpers.

ASK: How can you help others when they are in need?

- Invite children to answer the question by acting out how they can help others. Have the other children guess what each child is acting out.

PRAY: Let's pray together. Repeat after me: "Holy God, thank you for rescuing baby Moses. Thank you for reminding us that you are always there to help us. Show us how we can help each other and help our world. Amen."

- Send the Family Faith Letter and activity home with each child. Also send home any activities or items made during today's session.

REPRODUCIBLE SESSION 1 Connect and Rescue

Connect the dots by following the numbers in order. See how God saved baby Moses!



Art: Tatevik Avakyan/Illustration Online LLC