

## The Basket on the River

*Genesis 15:13-14; Exodus 1; 2:1-4; Acts 7:18-20; Hebrews 11:23*

“Waah! Waah!” Listen! Do you hear a little baby crying?

“Shh!” says Mother, and she tells big sister to hold her little brother.

No one must hear the baby crying. No one must find out that a baby lives in their house, for if the king would find out...! His soldiers would throw the little boy into the river. How terrible!

Who is this bad king? And why does he want the baby boys to die?

The king is Pharaoh of Egypt. When Joseph was alive, the Pharaoh let Joseph’s family come and live in Egypt. But Joseph’s brothers had many, many children. When a new Pharaoh became king, he was afraid of all these children of Israel.

*What if they fight against me? he thought. They might win! Do you know what I will do? I will make them my slaves. All the children of Israel—the children from Joseph’s family and his brothers’ families—must work for me making bricks and building cities, and I won’t pay them any money.*

And so the family of Joseph—the children of Israel—are now slaves. They must work hard in the land of Egypt and do whatever Pharaoh tells them.

Pharaoh is happy to see all the bricks they are making for him. But he is still worried about how many slaves he has. *There are too many of these people*, he thinks. *If they would all pick up*



*a sword, they could fight against me! From now on, every time a baby boy is born, it must be thrown into the river, so the baby will die.*

How terrible!  
What a wicked plan the Pharaoh has.

Now you know

why Mother says “Shh!” and tells big sister to pick up her little brother. No one must find out that a baby boy lives in their house.

Big sister Miriam holds the squirming baby. She must keep him quiet while Mother works on the basket. Carefully, Mother dabs thick pitch all over the basket. Every crack between every reed must be sealed shut. The basket is part of Mother’s plan to keep her baby safe. She and Father will take care of the little baby God has given them. They will obey God, not the wicked king.

At last the basket is finished. No water can get in.

There they go—quietly, carefully—hurrying down to the river, Mother and Miriam with the baby in the basket. No one must see them. No one must know that they have a baby boy



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with them. At the river's edge, Mother kisses her baby and closes the lid. Now she must trust the Lord to keep her baby safe. Mother sets the basket gently on the water and pushes it out into the bulrushes. It is like a little boat bobbing up and down against the reeds.

Miriam moves away. She finds a good spot to hide. She will stay by the river and watch over the precious basket.

1. Who was crying in the house? Why did he have to be quiet?
2. Why did Mother put pitch all over the basket?
3. The mother obeyed God and not the king? Who must we always obey?

4. Miriam's mother gave her an important job to do. What was her job? What could happen if she fell asleep or ran off to play? Do you need to do your jobs for your mom carefully, too?

5. Miriam watches the basket, but she cannot keep her little brother safe from all danger. Who will keep the baby safe? Read Psalm 121:2-3 and tell who keeps us safe each day.

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