

“Step Inside the River Reeds”

by
Tracy Wells

What This script presents options to go simple or go all-out to bring the story of baby Moses on the riverbank to life. As an interactive skit, the audience gets to step inside river reeds with Miriam as she tries to save her baby brother. They learn that God is always there for us when we trust Him.

Special Word of the Day: Trust
“God is always there for us when we trust him.”

Themes: Baby Moses, Trust, Faith, Courage, Boldness, God’s Provision

Who Miriam
Bithiah- Egyptian princess

When Bible Times

Wear (Props) Part of the Nile River and the reeds alongside it’s banks are constructed for the audience to pass through and sit amongst to simulate being in the reeds next to the Nile River (see below). Miriam should be dressed in a simple tunic with an optional head wrap. Bithiah should be dressed in a flowing white tunic with gold and jeweled accents. She could also wear Egyptian styled gold and jeweled arm bands and crown as well as dark eye makeup.

Why Exodus 2

How Transform a classroom or large space into the river reeds along the banks of the Nile River! Place speakers around the room and play sounds of water lapping/insects buzzing/birds calling and other river sounds (there are many free sound samples available online). For ideas on how to Go Simple! or Go Big! with your river reeds continue reading below:

Go Simple! To create the river reeds, you will need a few cardboard boxes, green pool noodles, green tissue paper, and wooden skewers (all items can be found at the dollar store).

Purchase a cardboard box and cover it in green tissue paper. Cut the pool noodles almost all the way down into strips but leave about 6-8 inches at the bottom of each pool noodle uncut. Stick the skewers into the top of the cardboard box at intervals and place the pool noodle over the skewer for support. Using a blue blanket or disposable blue tablecloths (again, available at the dollar store) designate an area of the room as the Nile River. Place your reeds at intervals along the sides of the river and in the doorway, so kids will have to pass through and sit amongst the reeds. Attach fishing line to a basket. Place a baby doll wrapped in white linen inside the basket and place it at one end of the river. Station a helper at opposite end of the river from where Miriam is speaking to use the fishing line to pull the basket down the river to Bithiah.

Go Big! Purchase artificial reed grass (available online in pots). Use painted paper mache or fabric to cover the pots and extend past the base to give the feel of a riverbank. For the water, purchase water patterned cotton fabric (available online) or organza fabric in shades of blue. If possible, project flickering light from above down onto the fabric to give the feeling like the water is moving. You could also construct a real water feature. Using wood, create a frame for your river. It could just be a straight, thin, rectangular box, or could be curved, depending on the tools and talents available to you. Cover the interior of the frame with an old blanket or drop cloth, then cover the blanket with a sturdy liner (the blanket prevents the liner from tearing on the wood). Make sure you have extra liner on the sides, as the liner will pull tighter when the water is added. Put the frame where it will be during the skit and fill it with water. You can also add bags of river stones to the bottom. Place sand colored fabric “riverbanks” to the sides of your river to conceal the edges of your frame. Place your reeds at intervals along the sides of the river and in the doorway, so kids will have to pass through and sit amongst the reeds. Attach fishing line to a basket. Place a baby doll wrapped in white linen inside the basket and place it at one end of the river. If using a water feature, make sure the basket is also lined to prevent it from filling with water. Station a helper at opposite end of the river from where Miriam is speaking. The helper will use the fishing line to pull the basket down the river to Bithiah.

Note to performer: If you’ve ever worked with kids before, you know they’re unpredictable. They’re going to throw out answers and ask questions all throughout your monologue, and that’s great! That means they’re with you. Be ready to roll with it and answer crazy questions. It’s important to have other children’s workers there to thwart any unruly behavior or a child that is monopolizing the time.

Time Approximately 7-8 minutes

Miriam stands near entrance to room. During the course of the performance, if the children become loud when answering questions, Miriam should remind them to be quiet, because they are all supposed to be hiding.

Miriam: *(putting a finger to her lips)* Quiet everyone. I'm here on a secret mission and I don't want to be seen. If you want to join me, make your way through the reeds and find a place to sit along the river Nile. Make sure no one hears you or sees you, or else I'll fail my mission!

Continues to direct children into the room, repeating herself as necessary. When all children are inside, she crosses to the end of the river next to the basket.

Thank you all for being so quiet. And since you're here, I could really use your help. My name is Miriam and today I have a very important job. *(Looks around to see if anyone is nearby, then cups her hand to her mouth, as if telling a secret)* Don't tell anyone, but today I'm a spy! Does anyone know what a spy does?

Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses.

That's right. A spy is someone who secretly collects and reports information about the activities and movements of another person. Does anyone know who I'm spying on today?

Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses.

I'm spying on my baby brother! Do any of you have brothers or sisters that you play spies with?

Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses.

Sometimes it's fun to play spy with your brothers or sisters, but my brother and I aren't playing a game. I have to spy on him because his life is in danger! Does anyone know why?

Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses.

Here in Egypt, Israelites like me are ruled by a man named Pharaoh. Pharaoh is unhappy because there are a lot of Israelites in Egypt. He's worried that if there are too many of us, one day we will rise up and overthrow him! So, he came up with an evil plan to have all the Hebrew baby boys killed. He thinks that if there are no Hebrew baby boys then they would not be able to grow up into strong soldiers that would one day fight to take over Egypt. *(Bends down and touches the basket)* When my baby brother was born, my mother knew we had to do everything we could to save him. She kept him hidden for three months, but we couldn't hide him any longer. So my mother and I came down

here to the Nile River. We placed my brother in this basket and set it in the river. Does anyone know why we did that?

Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses.

We knew that if he stayed here in Egypt with us that he would surely be killed. By putting him in this basket and sending it down the river, we are hoping that he will find a better life with someone who can keep him safe. What do you guys think of our plan?

Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses.

It’s definitely risky, but we are putting our trust in God, knowing that he will always be there with my brother. And that leads me back to my mission. *(Motions for everyone to lean in so she can tell them a secret. She speaks in hushed tones)* My mission is to hide here in the reeds and follow the basket as far as I can as it makes its journey down the Nile River. I need to report back to my mother what happens to the basket. Do you think you guys can help me with this mission?

Waits for the children to respond.

Great! Then let’s all be spies together and see what happens to my baby brother. Remember, stay as quiet as you can and make sure you are hidden among these reeds so no one can see you. Here we go!

Gives the basket a little push. As she does, the helper begins to pull the invisible line and the basket starts to slowly travel down the river. As it does, Miriam says the following lines at intervals. She may also ad lib in response to the children. She should also follow the basket down the river, hiding among the reeds as she does.

There it goes! Wow, it’s traveling pretty fast! Watch out for those reeds, baby! Oh no, I think it’s going to get stuck in those reeds on the other side of the river! *(Stops and turns back to children, in hushed tones)* The basket is trapped in the reeds. What should we do now?

Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses.

I think a good spy would stay hidden and observe until something happens. Let’s sit tight and see what happens next!

After a moment, Bithiah enters.

Bithiah: There is nothing like the cool waters of the Nile River to wash away the heat of the day.

Crosses to the river, near the basket and bends down, as if to dip her hands in the water. She sees the basket.

PURCHASE
What is this? *(Picks of the basket and looks inside, seeing a baby)* Why, it's a baby! *(Takes doll out of the basket and holds it, looking down into its face)* What is a sweet baby like you doing floating down the Nile River in a basket? *(Continues looking at the doll)*

Miriam: It's the Pharaoh's daughter, Bithiah! If Bithiah keeps my baby brother, he will surely be safe from Pharaoh's evil plan. Let's get closer so we can see what will happen next. *(Starts to creep closer. As she does, Bithiah looks up and sees her)* Oh no! I think she saw me. Hide!

Bithiah: I could've sworn I saw a Hebrew girl hiding among those reeds. *(Looks down at baby)* This must be a Hebrew child. His mother must've sent him down the river to keep him safe. *(Crossing closer to Miriam and calling out)* Hello. Do not be afraid. Come out of the reeds.

Miriam: *(in hushed tones)* She saw me. I guess I'm not a very good spy. *(Stands and bows)*

Bithiah: Do you know this Hebrew baby?

Miriam: I do not.

Bithiah: That's a shame. I found him along the riverbanks and intend to bring him home to live with me in the palace as my son. The only problem is I will need someone to nurse him.

Miriam: *(turning excitedly to children)* I just thought of a great plan that will help my brother *and* make my mother so happy! *(Turns back to Bithiah)* I know a Hebrew nursing woman who can help you. Should I go and fetch her?

Bithiah: Yes, please do. Let her know I wish for her to nurse this child and help care for him. I will pay her well for her services.

Miriam: *(bowing)* As you wish, Your Highness.

Bithiah: *(looks at doll)* I think I shall name you Moses, which means "to pull out of the water."

Miriam: *(smiling)* I like that name.

Bithiah: *(smiles at Miriam)* Me too. *(Exits, carrying doll)*

Miriam: *(turns to audience)* We completed our mission! We followed the basket and found out what happened to my baby brother. He's going to live in Pharaoh's palace as Bithiah's son and his name will be Moses! We put our trust in God and he was there for my brother. Isn't God great? Let's take a minute to pray to God to thank him for keeping Moses safe. *(Folds her*

hands in prayer) Dear God, thank you for watching over us when times are scary. Help us to always remember that you are always there for us when we put our trust in you. Amen. *(Looks up)* Now I've got to hurry home and tell my mother. You guys hurry home and tell your families all about our mission and what wonderful things happen when you put your trust in God. Goodbye!

Exits. End of scene.

SCRIPT

TO

REMOVE

WATERMARK

AT

SKITGUYS.COM