

## GOD'S PLAN.



Tell the story of the beautiful baby who was chosen by God to do a great work for his people. God put it into the heart of the mother to hide her baby among the reeds by the river side; he sent the king's daughter there to find the baby; he made her heart tender, and planned that she should find the baby's own mother for a nurse, so that the little Moses should be taught about God the very first thing.

Show a watch, and tell that away aside, out of sight, is the main-spring, which moves all the little wheels, and turns the hands, and keeps the watch going. So God is the great main-spring of this universe. He plans and moves all things, though we cannot see him. He plans for the little children as well as for the grown people, and if they go his way all will be right; but if they leave him, and go their own way, they will be sure to get into trouble.

## GOING WITH GOD.

Tell that a little girl had a part to do in carrying out God's plan. Show how little sister Miriam, who was told to watch the baby in his ark, did her work faithfully. If she had not been watching she would not have seen the princess; or, if she had been afraid to speak to her, her own mother would not have been taken as the nurse, and so, perhaps, little Moses would have been taught to worship idols, and not the true God. Miriam did not know that she was helping God, but she was, and so are we when we are doing faithfully the work that is given us to do. We can never be sure that we are going God's way, only when we are obedient and faithful in all that is given us to do. Read Prov. 30. 11, and teach that our doings may make God pleased with us.

## Lesson Word-Pictures.

There is a great treasure hidden in the slave-home of Amram and Jochebed. Dear as it may be to these parents, even they but partially prize the baby God has given them. In that little form is hid the hope of Israel's mighty deliverance from Egypt. The issues of the midnight march across the sea, and the wonderful after-journey of the pilgrims, are all dependent on that baby, cooling in Jochebed's olive-tined arms as she rocks it in one corner of her slave-home. But hush, baby! What if the cruel slave-hunters should come and hear thy cry! And hark! That mother listening hears afar the swift, stealthy tread of the hunters! They are coming! To-morrow they may be here! Into the river the baby must go. The crocodiles may devour him.

The river will smother him. Poor heart-broken mother! She sobs, "I never again shall rock my baby in the corner!" There is one little thing she can do. She gathers the rushes by the river's brink, and weaving them in and out, in and out, she says, "I will make my baby a cradle and the Nile shall rock it, and I will give it a cover and the crocodile cannot reach it." Hurry, O mother! The slave-hunters are coming! They are prowling about the village. Perhaps they see her going toward the river, a bundle in her arms, and they say, "Another Hebrew mother with her viper-offspring going to the river! We need not follow her. The Nile will look after her boy!" Ah, between those mill-stones, the bloody hunters and the crocodile's jaws, what baby-loy can escape! Jochebed may think of all this. Does she look up as she hurries away? Does she think of the God of great Joseph and breathe a prayer to him! Great Joseph's God could save. Will he let the slave-hunters and the crocodiles and the deep river kill Jochebed's baby? "O my baby, my baby!" she wails as she lays the little one in its ark amid the rushes. "How can I leave you?" she sobs again and again, covering up the child, then coming back to look again and again. She leaves at last, but her heart is back there in the little ark, and it beats against the sleeping baby. "I will watch!" says the baby's sister Miriam. "If the crocodiles come with open jaws, I will stone them away!" Crocodiles? Not these, but great Pharaoh's daughter, with her graceful form and delicate hands and dark eyes. With her come her laughing maids. But what do the dark eyes see off on the water amid the rushes? Quick! Some one bring great Pharaoh's daughter that queer box! And now, her own gentle hands open it, and lo, a little babe with quivering lip and brimming eyes and a timid cry! "Poor little baby!" the tender-hearted princess is murmuring. "This is one of the Hebrews' children!" All this while, poor Jochebed mourns for her baby that she sees drowning in the river. There is a step at the door. "Oh—mother, come—quick! Great—Pharaoh's daughter—has found baby—and wants—a Hebrew nurse—and I said I would get one. Come quick!" It is watchful Miriam, sharp-witted, quick-footed, now excitedly speaking. "O hurry, mother!" The mother has gone, in a daze, wondering if Miriam be crazy; but no, there is great Pharaoh's daughter down by the river, and in her arms is Jochebed's baby changing its cries to coos when he sees mother bending down toward him. Every thing is quickly arranged, and once more in the corner at home sits a slave-mother gently rocking the little Moses, singing a lullaby sweeter than any musical murmurs of the Nile. Ah, great Pharaoh's daughter, would you have done all this had you known what Jochebed's baby would do to Egypt one day. But how could you help yourself when great Joseph's God was on baby's side?

## B. C. 1491.]

Exod. 3. 1-12.



[Commit to memory verses 2-5.]

1 Now Mo'ses kept the flock of Je'tro his father-in-law, the priest of Mid'i-an; and he led the flock to the back side of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Ho'reb.

2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

3 And Mo'ses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.

## LESSON VII. THE CALL OF MOSES.

[May 15]

4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Mo'ses, Mo'ses. And he said, Here am I.

5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither; put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of A'bra-ham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Mo'ses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

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