

## FOR TEACHERS IN THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

By Alice S. Brown

Teachers in the Primary Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the PRIMARY QUARTERLY.

The underlying thought in this new Quarter's lessons, is God's marvelous care for his chosen people, the children of Israel. Let us therefore try to make plain: (1) that God is as tenderly watchful for the safety and happiness of the little folk of to-day as he was for those grown-up children in ancient Egypt; but (2) that, as with the Israelites, in order to obtain the fullest blessings from that love and watchfulness, willing and prompt obedience to the heavenly commands is always necessary. Let us keep these thoughts in mind throughout the thirteen lessons.

**INTRODUCTION.** How many of you have a baby sister? A baby brother? How old are they? What does mother sometimes tell you to do when she is busy? What do you do to amuse and take care of baby?

Now to-day we have a story about a little baby, one who lived long ago. His name was Moses, and he was born in the land of Egypt.

Moses' father and mother were very poor. No matter how hard they worked or how much they did, they never received a bit of money from Pharaoh, the king. They were his slaves. The worst of it all was that, if they stopped to rest, even for a moment, Pharaoh's cruel taskmasters would lash them with long whips. Yes, Moses' father and mother had a hard time, and all because they were Hebrews. Presently, however, Pharaoh did something even more cruel; he ordered that whenever a baby boy was born it must be thrown into the river Nile to drown.

Now about that time, little Moses was born. He was a dear little baby, and his father and mother loved him, oh, so much. His mother, Jochebed, pressed him close to her heart. How could she let anyone throw him into the river, her precious baby! And suddenly she sat up straight and clutched him tighter. She would not! Her baby should not drown!

So Mother Jochebed took some reeds and wove them into a strong basket, covered it thickly with a coat of tar so that the water or dampness could not get in and then gently laid Baby Moses in it.

"Miriam," she said to Moses' little sister, "come with me;" and together they took

the basket down to the river, where they hid it carefully among the rushes close to the water's edge. Mother Jochebed had to go away, but Miriam was left to watch. Mother Jochebed hoped that one of the princesses, daughters of Pharaoh, would pass that way and find the baby in the basket.

Sure enough, it was not long before the princess came walking along on her way to the river to bathe. "What is that?" she exclaimed as she spied the basket.

Her maidens ran to do her bidding, and in a moment the basket had been fetched and opened. And there lay Baby Moses. So he began to cry. Miriam has been watching for the princess' coming and now she came out of the rushes. "Shall I call one of the Hebrew women to come and be his nurse?" she asked.

And now guess who was the nurse that Miriam called. Why, yes, Mother Jochebed, of course. And when she came, the king's daughter said, "Take this baby and be very good to it, and I will pay you wages." And so in a few moments more Baby Moses was safe in his own dear mother's arms. His life would surely be spared; the princess would see to that. And best of all he was to be taken care of and loved and taught by his own father and mother, at least for some time until he was a big boy, old enough to go to the princess' palace.

You see, God was taking care of Baby Moses just as he watches over and cares for all the babies and children in our big world.

## AN OPENING EXERCISE

(For the first three lessons)

*Class:* "O Lord my God, IN THEE DO I PUT MY TRUST." Ps. 7:1.

*Teacher:* "Keep me as the apple of thy eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings." —Ps. 17:8.

*Class:* "I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God." —Ps. 17:6.

*Teacher:* "Blessed are all they that put their trust in him." —Ps. 2:12b.

The children may copy the capitalized words from Ps. 7:1.

**NOTE.** Let us take note of the two songs given in the PUPIL'S QUARTERLY. They will help to impress the thought of God's care.