

In our last lesson we told about Joseph bringing his father Jacob and all his family to Egypt. His father and his 11 brothers and their families settled in one part of Egypt called the Land of Goshen. This land was separated from the main land of Egypt by a river. It was a good land for raising cattle and sheep and here the children of Israel kept away from the idol worship of the Egyptians. This was very important, for God wants his people to love him and obey his laws, rather than worship fancy statues of gold or silver. Idol worshippers did many bad things and God warned his people to stay away from them or they might sin also.

When Jesus was here on earth, he prayed to God and asked him to keep his followers away from the evil of the world. Just as the Israelites had to work close to the Egyptians, we have to go to school with some who don't believe the way we do, don't we? Some people may want us to do wrong things, play mean jokes on others or cheat on tests or tell lies. We have to live around people like that, but with God's help we will be able to resist their bad ideas and perhaps even try and help them to be better people and do things God's way.

Jesus prayed to God and said: **"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from evil."** John 17:15

This will be your memory verse. When you've learned it put a check in the box.

Many years went by and even after Joseph, his father and brothers had all died, their descendants still lived in the land of Goshen, raising sheep and cattle and farming the land. But one day a new Pharaoh (king) sat on the throne of Egypt. This Pharaoh wasn't friendly to the children of Israel like the old Pharaoh had been. He sent guards who forced the children of Israel to be his slaves. The Israelites had to work very hard in the Egyptian's fields and in the palace and in the mud ponds making bricks for the huge palaces and pyramids and statues that the Pharaoh wanted built. Slave masters with whips would beat the Israelites if they didn't work hard enough, they expected the Israelites to become weak and that many of them would die. But guess what?

God was watching over his people and instead of growing weak and dying, they became stronger and had more and more children who grew up strong and brave.

Soon Pharaoh became worried; the Israelites might even become strong enough to rebel against him. Perhaps they could even take over the rule of Egypt! What should he do, the Pharaoh wondered.



In those days women didn't go to a Dr. or a hospital when they had a baby. There were two nurses in Egypt who were called "mid-wives." The mid-wives would go to the homes of the women who were about to have a baby and the mid-wives would help the mothers give birth. The mid-wives were called Shiphrah and Puah (aren't those funny sounding names)? One day Pharoah called them into his palace and gave them orders, "Every Israelite women who gives birth to a boy baby is to have her baby killed. If you don't kill the babies, I'll kill you," this cruel Pharoah said.

Now Shiphrah and Puah loved God and wanted to keep his commandments. They knew this was a very wicked thing that Pharoah wanted them to do. Soon after this they were called to a home where a mother gave birth to a tiny baby boy. Shiphrah and Puah washed the tiny little boy and wrapped him in a warm blanket and handed him to his mother to hold. They knew they could never kill a little baby. What would they tell Pharoah, they wondered?



When Pharoah knew the mid-wives had not been killing baby boys, he called them to the palace and demanded why they hadn't obeyed his orders. Shiphrah and Puah were shaking and very frightened, but they told Pharoah the Israelite women were so strong and healthy that they had the babies before Shiphrah and Puah got to the homes. God was pleased with the mid-wives and saved their lives. Do you think they did the right thing? Yes, for they obeyed God instead of the Pharoah who could have killed him.

Do you think this could be a lesson for us? We don't have a king to kill us if we don't obey his foolish rules, but we do have times when we have to make a choice...do we do what God would want us to do ... or do what some other person wants. We should never be afraid to do what God wants us to do, should we? Because Shiphrah and Puah obeyed God, he saved them from Pharoah. The Pharoah knew how strong the Israelite people really were, so he believed the mid-wives and let them go. Pharoah would have to think of another plan.

The next day Pharoah gave an order to all his people, "Every Israelite boy that is born, is to be thrown into the Nile river." What an awful law that was! The Egyptians worshipped the Nile river and thought the water was a god, so they probably thought this was a good idea. If they offered the river god some baby boys it would please the god, they thought, so they were happy to obey the Pharoah.

Several years before this, a man named Aram had married a woman named Jochebed. They had a little girl named Miriam and later they had a little boy named Aaron. Miriam and Aaron had been born before Pharoah's cruel law, so they were safe, but now Jochebed found out she was to have another baby. Aram hugged Jochebed and told her not to worry, "Perhaps it will be a little girl and it will be safe," said Aram. But when the time came for Jochebed to have her baby, it was a little baby boy. "What will we do," Jochebed said, "The Egyptians will come and take away our little baby!" Aram said they would hide the child as long as they could and pray for God to help their little boy. The family was able to keep the little baby hidden for three months, but then one day something happened. Perhaps someone had seen the baby, or heard him crying, whatever happened, Aram and Jochebed knew they could hide their little boy no longer. That night they prayed and prayed for God to save their little son.

The next morning Jochebed sent Miriam and Aaron to the river to gather some bullrushes (these are something like the cattails we have around some of our ponds). Jochebed wove a little basket and made a lid for it, then she covered the basket with pitch so it would be waterproof. Jochebed bravely laid her little boy in the basket, covered him with a soft blanket and fastened the lid down on the basket. The family was trusing in God to watch over their baby boy. Then Jochebed took the basket to the river and set it down at the edge of the water among the thick bullrushes. The gentle waves rocked the baby to sleep. Now if an Egyptian asked where the baby was, Jochebed could honestly say he was in the river Nile. His older sister, Miriam hid among the bullrushes watching the little basket to see what would happen.



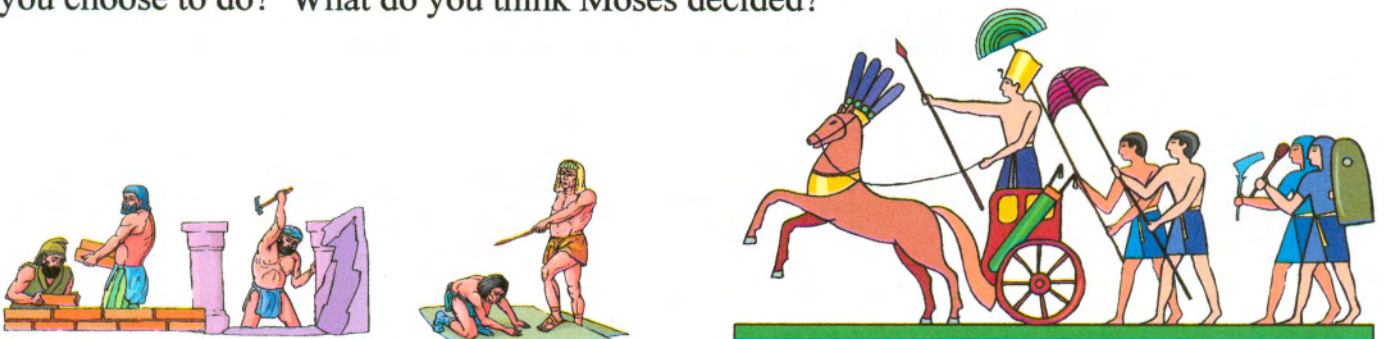
Imagine Miriam's surprise when all of a sudden she saw the princess of Egypt come walking toward them. The daughter of Pharoah had her servant girls with her and she planned on going for a swim in the shallow water. As she came near she saw the basket floating among the reeds. "What's over there," she asked as she pointed to the basket. "Is it a small allegator or a log or what?" One of her servant girls went to look and said, "It's a basket, I'll bring it to you." When Pharoah's daughter opened the basket the baby began to cry. "Oh, how sweet, it's a tiny baby boy. It must be one of the Israelite babies that a mother is hiding. I'll name this little boy, Moses!" Just then Miriam popped up from her hiding place. "Oh princess, I know of a woman who could feed the baby and care for him for you," she said.

Pharaoh's daughter decided she wanted to keep this little boy and raise him in the palace. However, she probably knew she couldn't just bring a baby home and have Pharaoh let her keep him. The princess thought it was a good idea to have someone watch over the baby while he was so little and when he was a little older she would tell Pharaoh that she was going to adopt a son. So Miriam brought the princess to her home and the princess made arrangements with Jochebed to care for little Moses until he was a little older.

That night Jochebed and Amram prayed to God and thanked him for saving their little baby boy. Jochebed was able to hold and rock and feed her little boy and they were able to tell him about his people and the true God while he was in their care. One day as he grew older the princess sent word to Jochebed that she was ready to have Moses come and live at the palace. It was hard for the family to give up their little boy, but they knew this must be God's plan. He would live in the palace and become an important person and perhaps one day he could help his people who were slaves in Egypt.

So Moses grew up with the royal family of Egypt. He would go to school just as you do today. His teachers and classrooms would look different, but he still had to sit and study indoors in the great palace, instead of running outside to chase butterflies or catch frogs by the river's edge. He would learn about Egypt's history and would be taught how to be a leader and commander of armies and how to meet and talk to rulers of other countries.

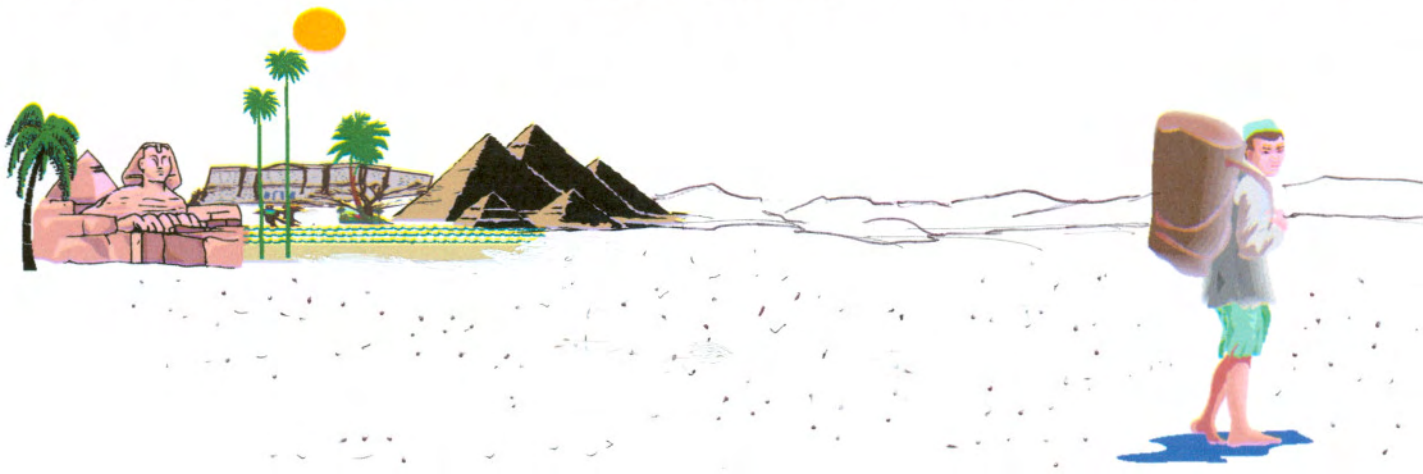
When Moses became an adult he had an important decision to make. He lived in a beautiful palace, wore rich clothes and expensive jewels. Servants would wait on him and one day he might be ruler over all the land of Egypt. This would be pretty nice, wouldn't it? However, as he traveled through the city in his beautiful chariot, he would see the Israelite people (his own people) falling under heavy loads, being whipped, and made to serve cruel Egyptian masters. Moses had to decide if he wanted to continue living the life of an important person in the palace or should he go to his people who were slaves and try and help them. What would you choose to do? What do you think Moses decided?



Moses had been taught about all the false idols of the Egyptians, but he remembered the one true God that his mother and father had told him about when he was just a little boy. Moses knew he was a Hebrew and belonged to the Israelite tribes. It would be hard to give up all the luxuries of Egypt but he decided he had to do something to help out his Hebrew people. One day he saw an Egyptian cruelly beating one of the Hebrew slaves. Moses rushed to help the Hebrew and in the fight he killed the Egyptian. This was wrong, for no matter how badly someone is being treated we must not take matters into our own hands. We can talk to others, try and reason with them but we are not to kill!

Moses tried to hide his wrong doing. He looked all around and didn't see anyone so he quickly buried the body in the sand and thought he got away with it. However, the next day two Israelites were fighting among themselves and Moses quickly stepped in to try and settle the argument. "Who made you a judge over us," one of the men said angrily. "Do you plan to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?" This frightened Moses, he had been seen when he killed the Egyptian! Pharaoh would hear about it and Moses would be killed. He quickly ran to his room, packed some food and water and ran out of the gates of the city. He knew he had to get away quickly and he headed out into the desert to hide.

Moses was punished for his wrong, for now he couldn't see his Egyptian family again, and he couldn't help his Hebrew people, either. He had to become a nomad and wander in the desert, hiding if any caravan or Egyptian soldiers came near. Poor Moses had thought he was doing his Israelite people a favor, but what do you think he should have done instead? He should have prayed to God and waited for God to direct him. God had a purpose and plan for Moses but it was to be God's way, not something Moses tried to do on his own. God knew Moses wasn't ready to be a leader of the Israelites yet. He had much more to learn before he was ready to lead the children of Israel. We'll find out what happened to Moses in the next lesson.



Question Page

-
1. Why did God want to keep his people separate in the land of Goshen?
(a) to keep them safe from allegators (b) to keep them safe from Pharoah's soldiers
(c) to keep them safe from the evils of Egyptians and Egyptian idols
 2. What was the name of the mid-wives who helped mother's give birth?
(a) Pomba and Shannah (b) Shiphrah and Puah (c) Salome and Paula
 3. Who named Moses? (a) Pharaoh's daughter (b) Jochebed (c) Miriam.
-
4. What order did Pharaoh give to the mid-wives?
 5. Why did Pharaoh want to get rid of the Israelites?
 6. What new order did Pharaoh give to the people after the mid-wives didn't do the job?
 7. Where did Moses's mother hide her baby after he was three months old?

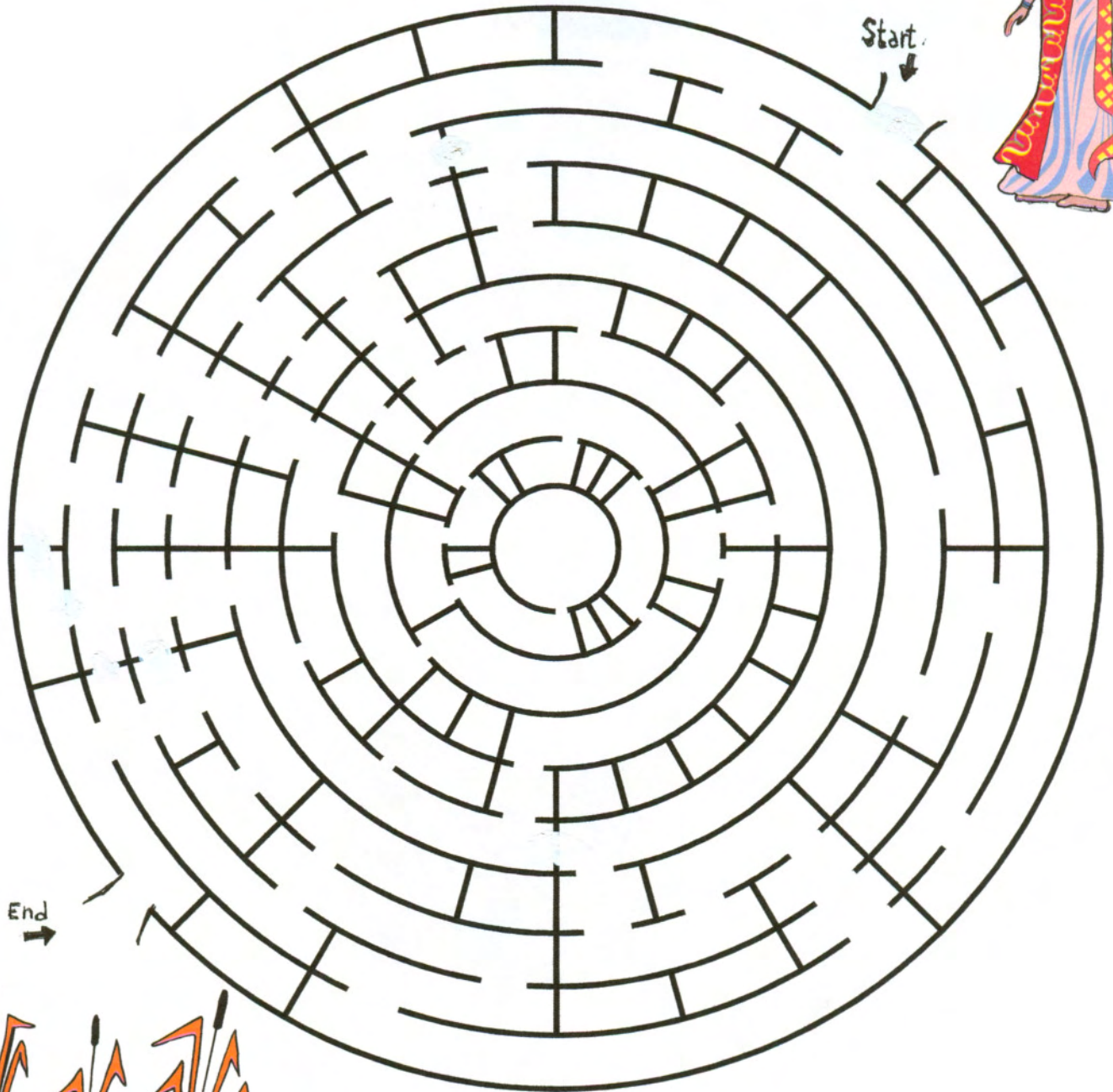
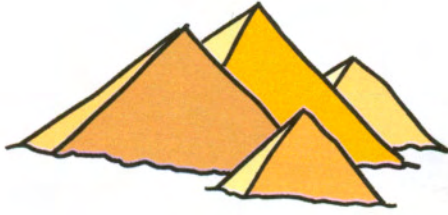
Put a T (for true) or an F (for false) in the blank spaces below

1. ____ Pharaoh's daughter wanted to kill baby Moses
2. ____ Jochebed hid in the bull rushes to see what would happen to the baby
3. ____ Miriam told the princess that she would find a good nurse for the baby
4. ____ Moses believed in the gods of the Egyptians
5. ____ Since he was the son of a princess, Moses didn't have to go to school
6. ____ God wants his people to keep away from the people that do bad things.
7. ____ The name of the babies brother and sister were Amram and Jochebed
8. ____ The name of the babies brother and sister were Aaron and Miriam

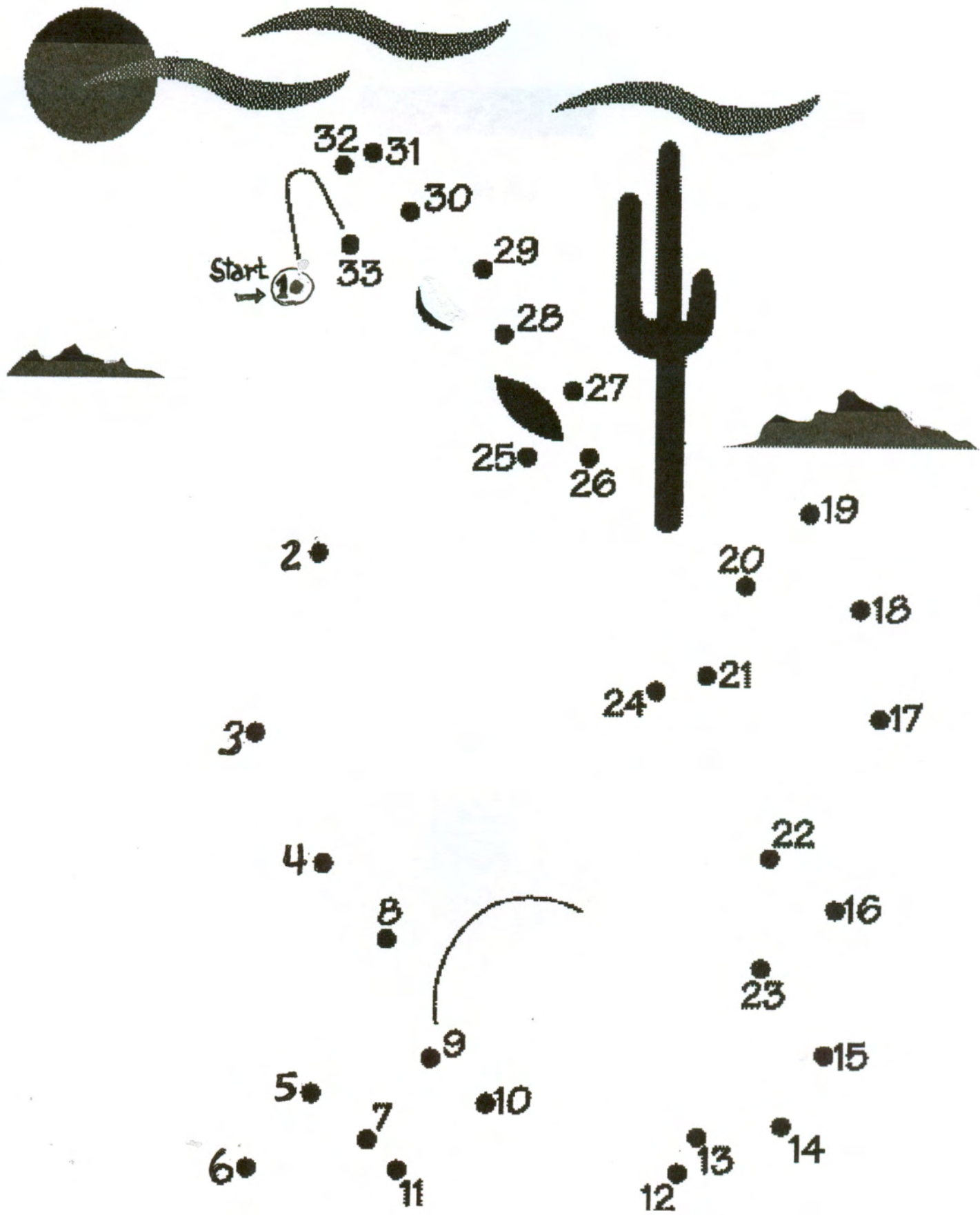
-
1. Was Moses a Hebrew or an Egyptian?
 2. What did Moses do when he saw an Egyptian being cruel to a slave?
 3. Was this a good thing to do?
 4. Did anyone see Moses do this?
 5. Why did Moses run away into the desert?

21

Help Pharoah's daughter find her way to baby Moses in the bull rushes




Connect the dots to see something Moses might have seen as he left Egypt and hid in the desert



Find the Bible Verse by using the code in the square (7 = A)

	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
T	9 5	1	12	16	22	3 7	A
S	17					26	B
R	19					14	C
Q	10					20	D
P	15					23	E
O	2					18	F
N	4 11	21	25	13	8	6 24	G
	M	L	K	J	I	H	



8 18

7 4 22 2 4 23

21 2 1 23 17

11 23

6 23

12 8 21 21

2 26 23 22

11 22

9 23 7 14 6 8 4 24

11 22

18 7 9 6 23 19

12 8 21 21

21 2 1 23

6 8 11