

STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY

**Week Eight - Stuck In Egypt****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

It's really easy to tell these stories in a way that looks for a main character or hero. We must remember, God is the main character. He is the hero of this story. Moses was a flawed human, just like every other human we've seen in the Story so far, and just like every human who exists today. Pray this story helps our kids (and us) see God as the hero and rescuer.

- **Big Idea:** God sees and hears - and doesn't quit on His people!

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Take some time to ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work this week, month, or even past year. Anything, big or small, that is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **Protection**

Have the kids name as many things as they can that protect them. For example, a helmet when riding a bike, a seatbelt when riding in a car, etc. Have them name people who protect as well (parent, police, etc.)

Sing Together

Story - from Exodus 1-2

After Joseph's brothers and all their family moved to Egypt, their family continued to grow. They were the Israelites, named after Joseph's dad Jacob, whose name was changed by God to Israel. Joseph and his brothers all grew old and died, but the Israelites continued to fill the land of Egypt. A new king came into power who didn't know Joseph and he was scared of how many Israelites were in his land. He came up with a plan to contain them and keep power over them so they wouldn't one day rise against the Egyptians.

They organized the Israelites into work groups and made them their slaves. They had them build structures, storages, water systems, buildings, and more. But the harder the Egyptians worked the Israelites, the more children they seemed to have. They were everywhere! The Egyptians began to hate the Israelites and they would try to make their work as miserable as they could.

The king then decided to put a stop to their growth as a people, so he told the women in charge of delivering babies to kill any males as they were born. Fortunately, those women, Shiphrah and Puah, loved God and let the baby boys live. But then the king told all of his people that if they saw an Israelite baby boy they should drown him in the Nile river!

One day, a couple from the tribe of Levi (one of Joseph's brothers) had a baby boy. They tried to keep him hidden as long as they could, but around 3 months old it was too hard to hide a crying baby. So, they had to put him in the Nile like the king commanded - but, they made a basket for him. They covered it in tar to keep the water out so it wouldn't sink and placed him carefully in the basket, hoping that he would survive the water and find life somewhere. His older sister ran along the river to watch over him.

The king's own daughter saw the baby boy floating in the water and her heart went out to him. She didn't want him to die, but wanted to raise him as her own. His sister, who was there, asked if she wanted her to get one of the Israelite woman to take care of him until he was old enough to live in the palace with her. So, the king ended up paying the boy's mother to watch her own child instead of having him killed! When he was old enough, he went to live in the palace with the king's daughter and she named him, Moses, which means 'drawn out', because she drew him from the water.

One day when Moses was grown, he went out of the palace and saw an Egyptian treating an Israelite badly. Moses was angry and wanted to rescue the Israelite so he attacked the Egyptian and killed him. When he heard that people knew about it, he ran away and hid in the mountains in a land called

Midian. He met a family there who he lived with. He got married and tried to forget all about Egypt.

Moses wanted to help his people, but he wasn't very good at it. Still, God heard the cries of His people. He knew their hurt. And He was going to come and rescue. One day, God would send an even better Rescuer. His own Son, who would not try to rescue with violence, but would give his own life to be killed in order to save us.

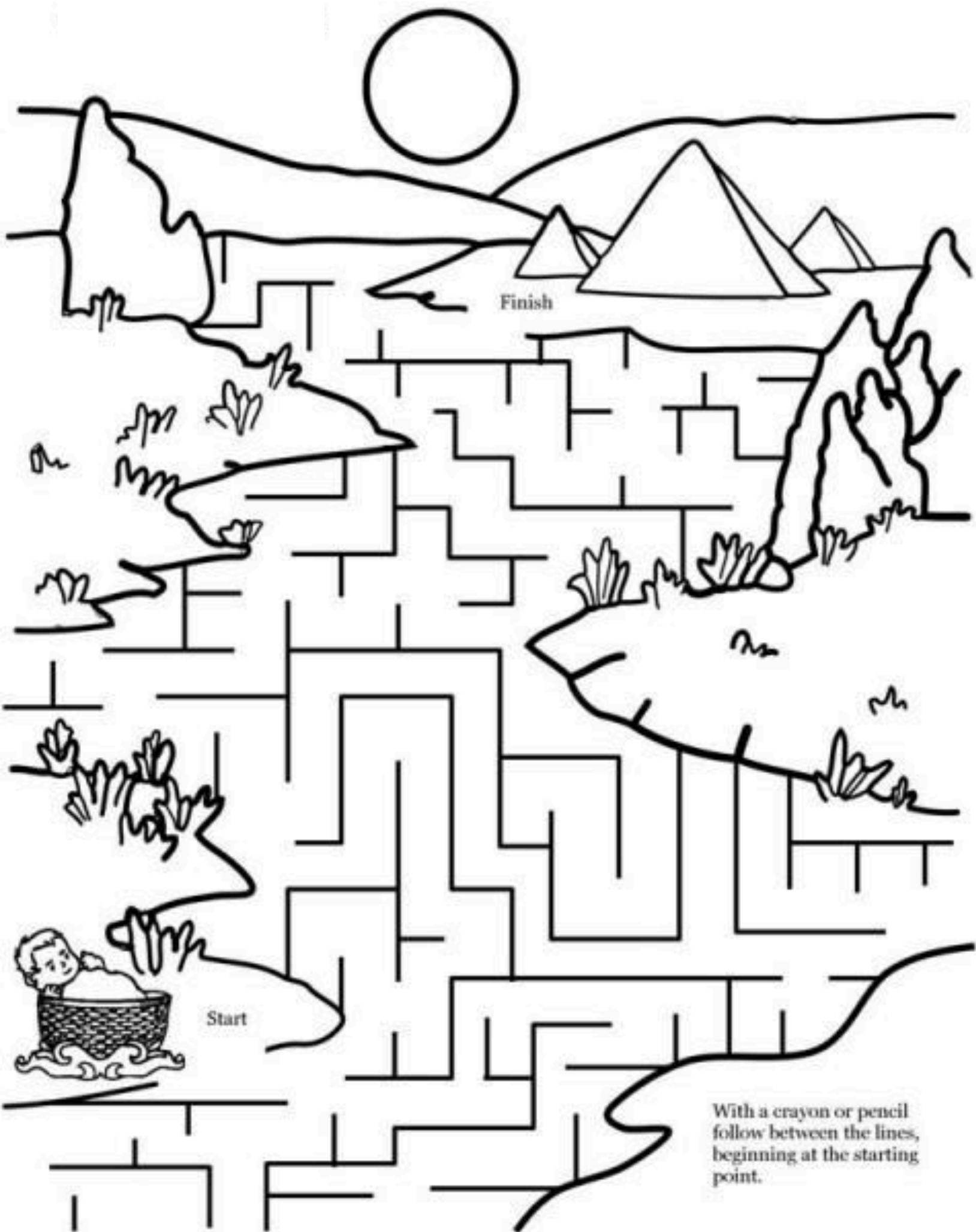
[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Why do you think the king of Egypt (Pharaoh) was so scared of the Israelites? Have you seen people be afraid of others different from them? Have you been afraid of people different from you?
- How did God rescue Moses from the king of Egypt? *(the same word used for the tar that made his basket waterproof is the word for what Noah built the ark with - bitumen [tar])*
- Moses wanted to rescue his people, but he did it in his own power. What went wrong?
- Jesus did the opposite - he surrendered instead of using his power. He laid down his own life instead of taking another. How is Jesus the better Rescuer?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**
God, thank You for hearing us in our trouble and for knowing we need rescue. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our true Rescuer! Help us to trust in You more. Amen.
- **Craft:**
Use the maze / coloring sheet attached.
- **BLESS Activity:** **For kids to do during the week**
Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Speak** rhythm. Who can you talk to about God's rescuing power this week?



With a crayon or pencil follow between the lines, beginning at the starting point.