

# BADGER ASSEMBLY STORIES

with Christian themes

## Ages 5-7

---

**Andy & Barbara Seed, Sally Maynard**

**You may copy this book freely for use in your school.**

The pages in this book are copyright, but copies may be made without fees or prior permission provided that these copies are used only by the institution that purchased the book. For copying in any other circumstances, prior written consent must be obtained from the publisher.



**Badger**  
LEARNING

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	3
<b>Bible Stories</b>	
1 Moses in the Basket	5
2 Daniel in the Lions' Den	8
3 The Big Catch	11
4 The Boy Who Left Home	15
5 The Storm That Went Away	19
6 The Man in the Tree	23
7 Jesus is Alive!	27
<b>Book Excerpts</b>	
8 The Selfish Giant Part 1	30
9 The Selfish Giant Part 2	33
<b>Real Life Stories</b>	
10 William Booth	37
11 Kaka	40
12 Mary Jones and her Bible	43
<b>Original Stories</b>	
13 The Old Watch	46
14 Carlo's Christmas Card	50
15 The Helpful Hedgehog	53
<b>Information</b>	
16 The Sign of the Fish	56
17 A Trip to Romania	60
18 Fair Trade	64
<b>True Stories</b>	
19 The Service on the Moon	67
20 Ocean Rescue	70
21 Chocolate Spread	74
22 Natalie's Dolls	78
<b>Drama/Play Scripts</b>	
23 The Argument	82
24 The Ten Plagues	85
<b>Poem</b>	
25 I Found a Pound	89

# Introduction

There are twenty five assemblies for children aged five to seven in this book, all with Christian themes. Each assembly begins with an introduction and then a main presentation, usually given by the teacher. There are both interactive and non-interactive follow-up ideas and every assembly concludes with an optional reflection or prayer. The assemblies use a wide range of stimulus material:

- Bible stories
- Original stories
- Poems and excerpts from children's books
- 'True life' stories: factual accounts of people's lives
- Factual accounts of events
- Information, e.g. about the work of Christian organisations
- Mini-drama sketches for children to perform, with playscripts

## Follow-up

Each assembly presentation is followed by suggestions for interaction to involve the audience in the assembly, and to reinforce learning. Interactive follow-up activities include:

- Closed and open questions
- Active response, e.g. vote, hands up, thumbs up or down
- Choral responses: finishing off statements
- Use of volunteers to assist at the front
- Discussion

Non-interactive follow-up suggestions include: a summary of the story; points to think about; reflection and prayer.

## Using the material

The assemblies in the book are designed to be used flexibly: it is intended that teachers select the most appropriate follow-up activities and questions from the range provided to meet the needs of the children present. The basic core presentation of each assembly may also be adapted to suit the school, of course, and may be used, for example, in circle time as the basis for role-play or other drama or for classroom discussion. Questions to stimulate response from the children might include:

- What might it feel like to be in this situation?
- Have you experienced a situation like this in real life?
- Why did the characters do what they did?
- Were they right/wrong?

### **What makes a successful assembly?**

Good preparation is essential, particularly if drama is involved. Other key pointers:

- Use of props or a visual focus (suggestions are included in the book; don't forget a data projector can be used if you can't find the object suggested).
- Relate the contents of the assembly to activities going on in the school or community.
- Interactivity: music, songs, drama or any kind of audience participation generates interest.
- Use the story or presentation to make a single clear learning point, which can be reinforced in the reflection or prayer at the end of the assembly.

Sample Page © Badger Learning

## Objective

To help children understand one of the most well-known Old Testament stories.

## RE themes

Judaism, The Torah, Bible stories, Old Testament, Moses.

## Props

(Not essential): a basket big enough to hold a baby.

## Introduction

Today, there are many Jewish people in the world. But a very long time ago, the Jews were nearly completely destroyed. It took a very brave woman and a basket to save them, and God, of course: here's the story.

## Bible Story: Moses in the Basket (Bible ref: Exodus 2:1-10)

A great many ages ago, before machines and roads and books, the people of Israel, the Hebrews, lived in a foreign land called Egypt. The people of Israel were God's special people and He wanted to give them a land of their own. First they had to leave the country of Egypt, but this they could not do because they were slaves.

The king of Egypt was called Pharaoh and he was worried about the people of Israel. 'There are so many of them that one day they might take over our country. We must put them to work as slaves.' And so the Egyptian masters put the people of Israel to work as slaves: they built cities and monuments and they farmed the land, and the work was hard and endless.

Even though the people of Israel were treated cruelly, God still looked after them, and each family had lots of strong, healthy children. Pharaoh noticed this and saw that their numbers grew and grew. 'I must stop them or these Hebrews will overthrow us,' he thought.

Pharaoh tried all sorts of things to stop the people of Israel becoming a larger and larger nation, but nothing seemed to work. In the end he came up with a plan that was evil and terrible and cruel. He ordered his soldiers to throw every Hebrew baby boy into the River Nile.

Now, at this time, there was a Hebrew woman called Jochabed who was expecting a baby. When the baby was born it turned out to be a boy. She called him Moses, and then she hid him away, fearing that the Egyptian soldiers would find him and take him away. It was a very risky thing to do and after three months she knew that she had to do something else or she would be found out.

Jochabed prayed to God to save Moses, her baby boy. Then she wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a basket. She covered the outside of the basket with sticky black tar, which is waterproof, and she took it down to the banks of the River Nile. It was a desperately hard thing for a mother to do, but Jochabed knew that it was her only hope of saving her son. She prayed that he would be safe from the crocodiles and boats, and she asked God to watch over him until he was safely in the hands of a caring person. Then, slowly and carefully, she placed the basket containing little Moses onto the water and gave it a push. As she watched it float away, she wiped her eyes and turned back for home.

Now later on that day, a mile or so downstream, the Pharaoh's daughter, a princess, was bathing in the river as she did every day. Out of the corner of her eye she saw a dark shape in the reeds and heard a sound. "It sounds like a baby crying," she thought to herself. The princess ordered one of her slaves to have a look. The woman brought the basket to the princess who looked inside and then lifted out baby Moses. He was crying with hunger. "The poor little thing," she said. "This is one of the Hebrew babies." And she immediately felt sorry for him.

Now, as it happened, Moses had an older sister who was another slave of the princess. She knew that this was her baby brother that had been found and so she went over to the princess. "Shall I get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

"Yes," said Pharaoh's daughter. "That's a good idea, go." So Moses' sister went to fetch his mother. And so the princess asked Jochabed to look after her own son for her, and what is more, she paid her to do it too.

Moses grew up in the royal palace of Pharaoh and became a prince of Egypt. And later on, when he grew into a man, God set him in place as the leader of the Hebrews, the one who took them out of slavery and back to the promised land of Israel.

## Interactive Follow-Up Activities

### Questions

1. Why was Pharaoh worried about the Hebrews? *(There were so many of them; he thought that they might take over Egypt).*
2. Why did Jochabed put baby Moses in a basket on the River Nile? *(To save him from Pharaoh's soldiers, who were killing every Hebrew baby boy).*
3. What happened to Moses? *(He was found by a princess, and brought up by his own mother).*

## Getting the message

1. Why did God look after Moses? *(Because later on as a man, he would lead the people out of Egypt to the promised land).*
2. Why did the Hebrews want to leave Egypt? *(They were slaves, treated cruelly; God had promised them their own land: Israel).*
3. Hands up:
  - Who thinks Pharaoh was cruel to the Hebrews?
  - Who thinks Jochabed, the mother of Moses was very brave?
  - Who thinks it was just lucky that the princess found Moses in the basket?
  - Who thinks God kept Moses safe?
  - Who thinks it is right that some people are slaves?

## Non-interactive Follow-Up

### Summary of the story

- The Hebrews lived in Egypt after the time of Joseph.
- Pharaoh was worried because their numbers were so great.
- The Israelites became slaves and were treated harshly.
- Pharaoh ordered that all Hebrew baby boys should be thrown in the river.
- Jochabed, a Hebrew woman, put her baby boy Moses in a waterproof basket on the Nile and prayed for his safety.
- He was found by the Pharaoh's daughter, a princess.
- Moses was nursed by his own mother and went on to become an important prince, and later the man who led the Hebrews out of slavery and towards the promised land.

### Reflection

We should be grateful that we live in times when slavery is against the law and where kings and queens cannot order children to be harmed. Let us be thankful for the peaceful times that we live in.

### Prayer

Lord God, thank You for the story of Moses. Thank You that we no longer live in times when many people are kept as slaves and treated in cruel ways. But please look after those people around the world who are suffering cruel treatment at this time. Set them free, like You set the Hebrews free from Egypt. Amen.

**[Note: The Ten Plagues assembly follows on the story from this assembly].**

**Objective**

To introduce children to the stories of the Old Testament.

**RE themes**

Judaism, The Torah, Bible stories, Old Testament, Daniel, beliefs and practice, prayer.

**Props**

(Not essential); lion masks; crowns; small whiteboard and markers; goblets.

**Introduction**

Would you fancy being put in a pit full of lions and left there? This is the story of a man who was and how he was protected....

## Bible Story: Daniel in the Lions' Den

There was once a king called Belshazzar who was related to a famous king called Nebuchadnezzar. When Nebuchadnezzar was king he had a servant called Daniel who often helped him to understand the many strange dreams that he had. One day King Belshazzar decided to give a huge feast for over 1,000 people. They had magnificent food and delicious wine. Belshazzar decided that as it was such a special feast, he wanted to drink his wine from special goblets and he ordered his servants to bring the gold cups that Nebuchadnezzar had stolen from the temple in Jerusalem. His servants did as they were told and soon everyone was drinking from the gold goblets and praising their gods, which were made from gold, silver, bronze and iron.

They were all very merry, but suddenly everyone froze and looked at the wall – a hand had appeared and the fingers were writing words. Everybody watched as the words appeared – King Belshazzar turned white and his knees knocked together. He started to call for magicians, wise men – anyone who he thought might be able to read what had been written on the walls. “I will give a reward,” he said, “to anyone who can read this and explain it. I will give him royal clothes made of purple cloth and gold chain, and I will make him the third highest ruler in the kingdom.” The magicians and wise men came, but they could not explain the words to the king. Belshazzar became more and more afraid, but when his mother arrived, she told him that there was a man in the kingdom who could tell him what the words meant. “His name is Daniel,” she said, “and he has the spirit of the Holy God in him. Call for him, he will be able to help you.”

So Daniel came and explained the writing. “Nebuchadnezzar started as a good and wise ruler, but then he became selfish and greedy. So he was removed as king. And you, Belshazzar, have drunk from cups that you knew had been stolen and you have worshipped idols. The Lord God is not pleased with you and this will be your punishment: your kingdom is coming to an end, you have been judged unworthy.



You will be killed and your land will be divided amongst the Medes and the Persians.” Daniel’s words came true that very night and Darius became the next king.

Darius was a good man and liked Daniel very much, but there were other bad men who didn’t like Daniel at all and they plotted to have him killed. They tricked Darius into making a law. This law said that no one could pray to anyone but Darius for 30 days. Anyone who prayed to God would be thrown into the lions’ den. But Daniel still prayed to God. The bad men told Darius and so he was forced to throw Daniel into the lions’ den. Darius could not sleep that night and the next day he hurried to the lions’ den to see what had happened to Daniel.

He called to Daniel: “Daniel! Has the God you worship been able to save you from the lions?”

Daniel answered him: “I prayed to God and He sent his angels to close the lions’ mouths – they have not hurt me because I have done nothing wrong.”

Darius was so relieved and pleased that he told his people how Daniel had been saved from the lions and said that from now on he and his people would worship Daniel’s God.

## Interactive Follow-Up Activities

### Questions

1. How was Daniel saved from the lions? *(He prayed and God closed the mouths of the lions so they would not harm Daniel).*
2. Who was the king who stole the goblets from the temple in Jerusalem? *(Nebuchadnezzar).*
3. What happened when everybody was drinking and feasting at the banquet? *(A hand appeared and started writing on the wall).*
4. What else were the people doing apart from drinking and eating? *(They were worshipping gold, silver, bronze and iron gods).*

### Getting the message

1. Why was King Belshazzar so frightened? *(Because he didn't know what the writing meant).*
2. Why did he call for Daniel? *(Because his mother told him Daniel had helped King Nebuchadnezzar understand his dreams).*
3. Why do you think God saved Daniel? *(Because he had done nothing wrong; he had stayed faithful to God and refused to worship anyone or anything else; because he prayed for help).*

# Non-interactive Follow-Up

## Summary of the story

- Belshazzar had a feast for 1,000 people and asked his servants to use goblets that been stolen from the temple in Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar.
- During the feast a hand appeared and writing appeared on a wall.
- Daniel told the king what the writing meant and the king was killed that night.
- The new King Darius was tricked into making a law that said people could only pray to him, but Daniel refused and continued to pray to his God.
- Darius had no choice but to throw Daniel to the lions but he was saved because God closed the mouths of the lions so that they wouldn't harm him.
- The king decreed that everyone should worship Daniel's God.

## Reflection

Even though Daniel knew he was in danger, he refused to obey a law that was wrong. He was faithful to God, and God saved him by protecting him from the lions.

## Prayer

Lord God, thank You for the story of Daniel, which shows us how to trust You even when things look hopeless. Help us to pray to You every day, not just when we are in trouble or need help. Amen.