

Through the Bible for Children: Exodus Lesson 1

A DIFFERENT KIND OF PHARAOH

Genesis 50:15 - Exodus 1:22

After Jacob died, his sons, the brothers of Joseph were worried that Joseph might hurt them because of what they had done to him. Joseph reminded them again that what they had done for evil, God had used for good to all of them. Joseph said, "Don't be afraid, I will take care of you and your families." Joseph spoke kindly to his brothers and comforted them. He had truly forgiven them for their wickedness towards him.

The family of Jacob continued to live in Egypt after Jacob's death. When Joseph knew that he would soon die, he made his family members promise that when they returned to the land of Israel they would carry his bones with them and bury him there. Joseph did this because he believed God's promises to his fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God had promised them the land of Israel and more descendants than could be counted, and Joseph based his life on God's promise. By asking to be buried in the promised land, Joseph showed all those around him that he trusted in God. Joseph died at the age of one hundred ten.

After Joseph's death, the children of Israel continued to multiply. For many, many years they increased and they began to be a mighty nation. Now--- there came a new king to the throne of Egypt and he did not know anything about Joseph. He looked at the children of Israel and saw how many of them that there were. He said to his advisors, "Let us handle these Hebrews wisely, so that if we are in a war they won't help our enemies. Let's make them slaves." So Pharaoh forced the Hebrews to build his treasure cities of Pithom and Raamses.

The more the Egyptians afflicted the people of Israel, the more they multiplied and grew. This bothered the Egyptians greatly and they made life very hard for the Hebrews. They made them work with mortar and brick, building their great buildings. The Egyptians treated the Hebrews harshly, so that their lives became miserable.

All this great hardship did not keep the Israelites from having many children. The Egyptian king made a new plan. He called the women who helped deliver the Hebrew women's babies to come to him. These women were called midwives. He commanded, "When the Hebrew women are giving birth, if it is a boy baby, kill it, but if it is a girl baby, let it live."

But the midwives feared God and they did not do as Pharaoh commanded them. Again the king called them in, and demanded, "Why do you not obey me?"

The midwives replied that the Hebrew women were so quick to deliver their children that there was no way that they could kill the boys.

Because the midwives risked their own lives to do what was right, God blessed their families. Meanwhile the children of Israel continued to multiply. Finally, Pharaoh devised his most wicked plan of all. He commanded that every boy child that was born to the Hebrews was to be thrown into the Nile River.

In this lesson we see how quickly things can change. When the children of Israel came to Egypt they were treated with honor and lived very well. But there are no guarantees in life will always continue on the same. Even if things are good for us today, things may be quite different tomorrow. That is why it is so important for us to put our trust in God. He never changes. He won't change from one day to the next. What he says today will still be true tomorrow. He can be trusted and we can feel secure and safe in him. God wanted the children of Israel to trust in him, not in their homes and jobs of comfort in Egypt. God wants each of us to trust in him also, not in our friends or in families or in anything else.

The Hebrew midwives were women who trusted in God. They did the right thing and saved the boy babies, even though they knew that it was very dangerous to disobey Pharaoh. He could have had them killed for disobeying his orders. Yet these women trusted in God, not in the situation or in their own ideas. Because of their trust in him, the Lord blessed the midwives. God will bless all those that put their trust in him!

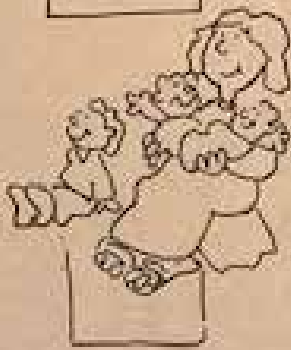
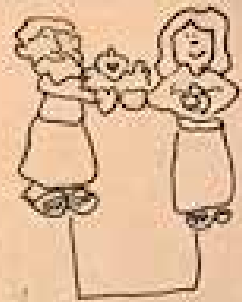
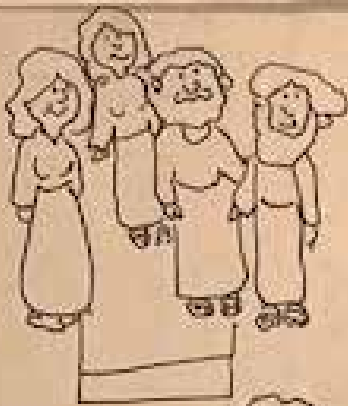
LEARN: Blessed is the man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. Psalm 40:4

Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust,
and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Psalm 40:4

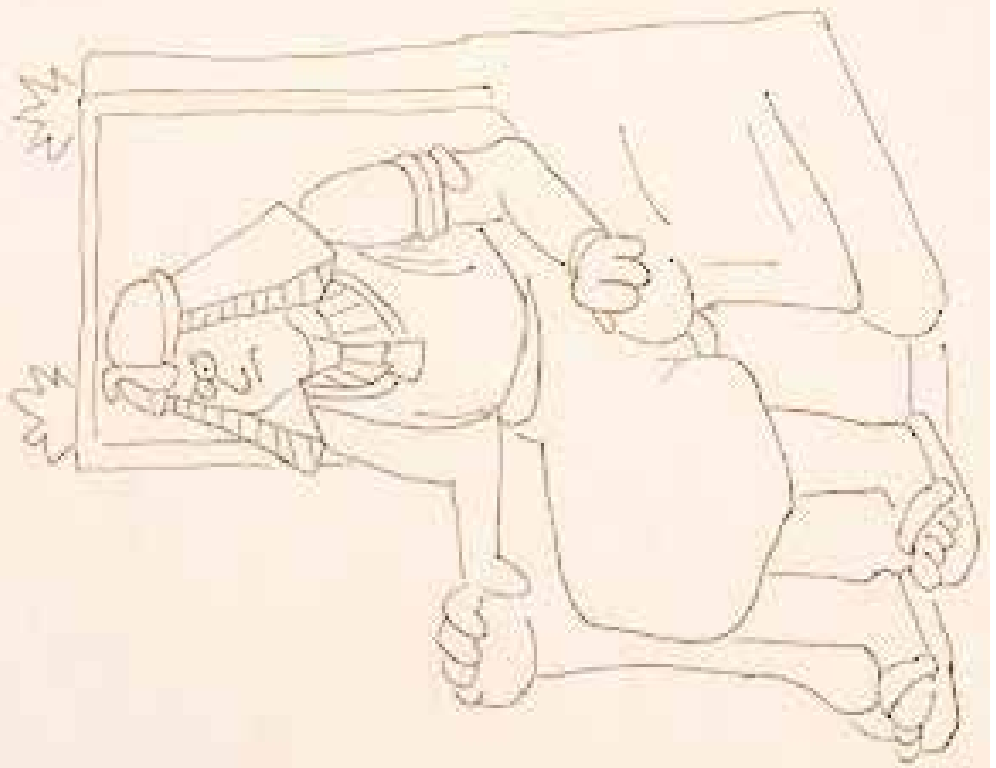


Blessed is the man that maketh the less honest,
and reputation not the proud, nor such as turn
aside to lies: Again with



1. Color Pharaoh and people -
2. Cut out people leaving tabs on -
3. Slip tabs into appropriate slots





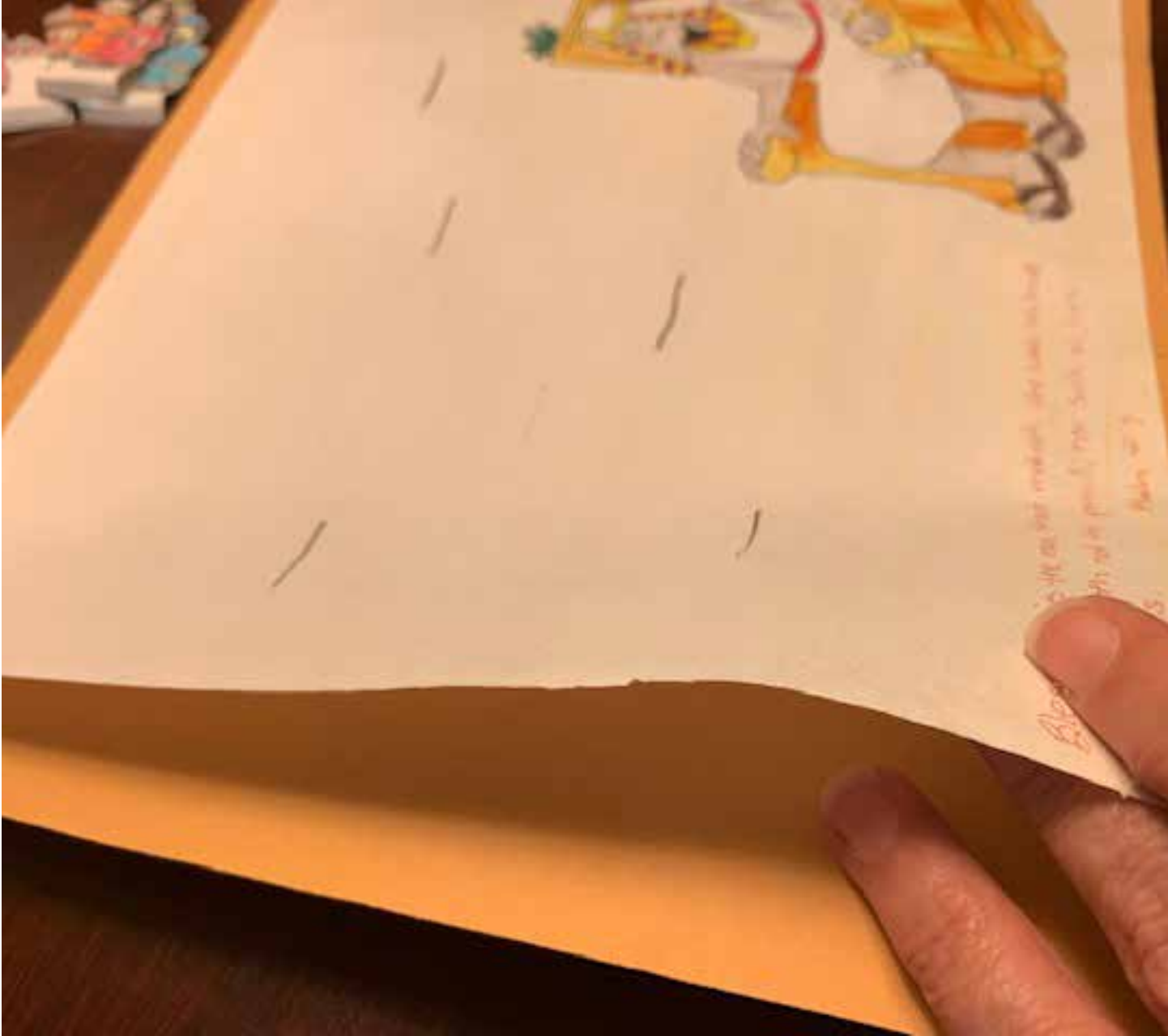
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It's all the same, they look alike
They are all from the same place
They are all from the same place
They are all from the same place





