

Intergenerational Worship

by Beth Barnett

Intergenerational Bible Reading

Exodus 2:1-12 Year A Proper 16 - August 27, 2017



What this is: Interactive Bible reading



Where it's used: Any intergenerational gathering; Early Word;



What's needed: Copies of text (print or on screen), Jelly Babies



Time: 7 minutes +further exploration options



Bible focus/theme: Exodus 2:1-12 Birth of Moses

- Give each person a copy of the text, Exodus 2:1-12, or display on screen.
- Explain that the story centres on the character of a baby.
- You will read the story from Exodus, but each time the word 'baby' occurs, everyone in the group is to do their best 'baby impersonation' – this might include, crying, baby-talk, crawling, sleeping, thumb sucking, anything babyish.
- With each of these performances, award a jelly-baby prize to one person for the best impersonation.
- Read again just for fun!
- Read again with no crying, but stopping on the words that begin with the letter B.

Everyone joins in on these words.

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months.

When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the baby in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river.

His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it.

When she opened it, she saw the baby. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' babies," she said.

Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the baby's mother.

Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the baby and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Further Explorations

After reading the text together interacting with the different perspectives that highlighting the word 'baby' and the words *beginning with the letter 'B'* gives continue with any or all of the following reflections.

- You did a wonderful job making lots of noise as babies! Crying is very important for babies - they need to do it a lot to communicate. But imagine how hard it would be to keep a baby a secret and hidden for safety, when its so important for babies to cry!
Do you think there are mothers in the world today who need to keep their babies from crying for safety? How can we pray for those mothers and their families?
- How many of the words beginning with B can you remember without looking at the text? In small groups try to recall these, and use them as prompts for retelling the story to one another. Remember that ancient stories from the Bible like this one were often shared person to person, and in communities through vibrant, traditional story telling for a long time before they were written down.
- How did you feel having the Bible reading disrupted with all that baby crying? Call out a word that reflects how you felt. Sometimes we can read our stories of God from the Bible with too much quietness. Today we have had a good reminder that babies crying belong in the stories of God, and in the ways the God works to respond to cries of his suffering people. Learn the song 'Lord you hear the cry' (Geraldine Latty) together as way of leading your prayers along with those who cry out in the world today.

https://www.resoundworship.org/song/lord_you_hear_the_cry_lord_have_mercy

(verse 1)

Lord, you hear the cry
of the widow weeping;
Lord, you hear the cry
of the child ill-treated;
Lord, you hear the cry
of the depressed one sinking;
Lord, have mercy on us,
Lord have mercy on us.

(chorus)

Break the heavens, Lord,
you said the poor are not forgotten.
Let your justice roar
in mighty waves across the earth.
Come and whisper peace,
O God of generous compassion.
Lord, have mercy on us,
Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us,
Lord, have mercy on us.

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