



## Exodus 2:1-6

**THREE MEN AND A BABY** If you're a bit older, you've probably heard of a film called three men and a baby. It's a comedy story of three men (one of them the child's father) who show how hopeless they are at dealing with the baby and their adventure in getting baby back to her mum in England.

**THREE WOMEN AND A BABY** But our story this morning is about a three women and a baby, all of whom were probably very competent with a baby and all of whom wanted the baby. This story is not a comedy but a bit of an adventure all the same. It involves the baby:

MOSES and his loving mother

YOCHEBED as well as his sister

MIRIAM and a caring princess

PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER

**PHARAOH** It was an adventure because the dad of the princess was the king – Pharaoh. He was an evil king because he decided to make the people of Israel his slaves. Why should he pay them to help build his cities when he could turn them into slaves and get it done much cheaper.

**ENSLAVED HEBREWS.** The problem was that these Hebrew people had lots of children and he was afraid that there would be so many of them that they would rise up and take over Egypt. So he decided to kill all boy babies by throwing them in the River Nile. Is that horrible or what?

**YOCHEBED THE LOVING MUM** Which brings us to Moses. His mum didn't want him to die so she hid him. But he became harder and harder to hide. What was she going to do. She decided to hide him in a basket amongst the rushes on the River Nile – probably because that was the last place anyone would look. The Nile delta had extensive marshes and reed beds and it was easy to hide a child there undetected. It seems a bit extreme, but she was a mum who loved her son and was prepared to do whatever was necessary to save his life.

**GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR MUM** Mothering Sunday is about giving thanks for our Mums. Because most mums are like Yochebed and do whatever's necessary to make sure their child is safe and well. Let's say a short prayer.

**THANK YOU** Lord for our mums!

**SAY THANK YOU TO MUM** I'd like some volunteers to come up on to the stage and help me. Mothering Sunday isn't just about saying thank you to God for mums, but saying thank you to our own Mums for the way they love.

**HOW?** What did you do for your Mum for Mother's Day? Let's take a quick survey of mums to see how their children have said thank you this Mothering Sunday.

**MIRIAM THE FAITHFUL SISTER** The second woman in our story was Miriam who was posted as lookout amongst the reed beds. What a great sister. She risked being arrested if she was discovered guarding a Hebrew baby for her Mum.

A TIME TO REMEMBER OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS CHILDREN Mothering Sunday reminds us that we're not to be a great son or daughter on one day a year, but that we need to do things to help our mums (and dads) make the home run smoothly.

How do you help you mum (and dad)?

THE CARING PRINCESS The final woman in our story is the Princess. She knew Moses was a Hebrew baby and should be killed but she was a caring person. She decided to have him. I reckon she knew Miriam was his sister and Yochebed his mum. But she brought him up in her own home with his own mum as nurse.

A TIME TO RECOGNISE THE WOMEN WHO CARE FOR US Mother's Day isn't just about mums, but those countless women who are just like mums to boys and girl. They are the wonderful aunts, grannies, foster mums, adoptive mums, neighbours, teachers, club leaders and the like who care for us. I think all of us have had people that have been as mums to us. In a few moments we are going to recognise them too.

MOSES GREW UP WITH TWO MUMS So Moses had it good. He got two mums, and a really privileged life and God made him into a great man. It all looked a big disaster and desperate when Moses was hidden. It looked bad. But this story reminds us that  
GOD CAN TURN OUR MINUSES TO PLUSES

CROSS God is a loving parent who loves us so much that he wants to rescue us just as the princess rescued Moses from what may have been eventual death.

JOHN 3:16 God sent His own Son Jesus to die for us on the cross so that we could have the opportunity of becoming His children.

CHILDREN OF GOD here's another verse from the Bible. God want to make us His children – princes and princesses – like Moses was made a prince. Moses didn't have much choice, he was a baby, but God gives us each a choice to decide whether we want to follow Jesus and become his children or not. You have a decision to make this morning if you haven't already done so.

Challenge.

LET'S PRAY

TITLE

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