

God Uses a Girl's Help

Quarter 11 • Lesson 3

Focus on Spiritual Formation

1. *Connecting*: Act out the character traits of a specific person in the Bible.
2. *Teaching*: Hear the story of Miriam, a young girl God used in His big plan (Exodus 2:1–10; 15:21).
3. *Responding*: Create and sing songs of praise.

SUPPLIES

- Bible

Optional Supplies:

- *The Action Bible*, pages 112–116
- Memory Verse Poster
- *The Action Bible*, images from Miriam's life
- Simple musical instruments such as a tambourine, blocks, etc.
- Pencils
- Student Pages

Teacher Devotion

*So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

Genesis 1:27

God created every human in His image—women and men, girls and boys, old and young, the powerful and the powerless. Every person has traits of the Creator and the capacity to do incredible things. God used a young girl named Miriam to change the course of history. When others looked at her, they probably saw an unimportant little girl. But when God looked her, He saw a valuable child created in His image. And He chose her to advance His big plan of redemption.

Take a look in a mirror. What do you see? Do you see your weakness? Do you see yourself how your culture or others see you? Or do you see someone who is created in the image of God? Look in the mirror again. You are created in the image of God. He will use you in His continuing story of redemption. Your part may be in the lives of the children you teach. Listen and follow the Creator who made you to play a role!

Family Connection: Let your children's families know that this week the children will learn the story of Miriam, a girl God used in His big plan. God values girls and women and invites them to be a part

of His story! Encourage family members to share positive qualities they appreciate in every girl and woman in their family.

LESSON TIME

1. Connecting: Act out the character traits of a specific person in the Bible.

Welcome your children warmly.

In today's class, you will hear about an important leader in the Bible. This person showed many good character traits.

- **What character traits do you think are important in a leader?**

Everyone stand up and spread out. I will name a character trait that this person showed, and you will use your bodies to silently act out that trait. For example, if I say, "Joyful," you might smile and jump up and down.

Say the following character traits one at a time. Give children time to act out each one.

Courageous
Obedient
Wise
Caring

Ask the children to sit down for the Bible lesson.

The person in today's Bible story showed great courage. This person obeyed a parent, cared for a younger sibling, and made wise choices.

- **Who do you think today's story is about?**

Allow the children to guess. They will probably not guess correctly, but that is okay.

Good guesses! Today's Bible story is about a girl who was about your age—between 7–12 years old—when she did something very courageous. What she did would change the lives of many people. Her name is Miriam.

Teacher Tip: In many cultures, women and girls are not viewed very highly. Yet God has said that He created both males and females in His image. Throughout Scripture God uses men and women, boys and girls, as part of His redemption story. All have a part in God's story!

2. Teaching: Hear the story of Miriam, a young girl God used in His big plan (Exodus 2:1–10; 15:21).

*Optional: If possible, share the images from *The Action Bible*.*

Before today's Bible story took place, God's people (the Israelites) were slaves in Egypt. They had been in Egypt for about 400 years. There were now so many Israelites that Egypt's king, called Pharaoh, became nervous. He was worried that they would rebel against the Egyptians and leave the country. Egypt depended on the Israelite slaves to do their work for them.

In order to limit the number of Israelites, Pharaoh ordered that every newborn Israelite boy was to be drowned in the Nile River.

*Optional: If you are using *The Action Bible*, have the children read the story on pages 112–116.*

During this time, an Israelite woman gave birth to a baby boy. She hid him from the Egyptians for 3 months. When he was too old to hide, she made a basket out of reeds and coated it with tar. She placed her baby boy in the basket and put it among the tall plants along the edge of the Nile River. Miriam, the baby's older sister, stayed nearby to see what would happen to the baby.

Pharaoh's daughter, the princess, went down to the river to bathe. She saw the basket floating near the shore and asked her slave to bring it to her. The princess opened the basket and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him.

Miriam stepped forward and asked the princess, "Should I go get an Israelite woman to nurse the baby for you?"

The princess answered, "Yes, go." So Miriam went and got her mother. Pharaoh's daughter told Miriam's mother, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the baby's mother was able to take her baby home and care for him.

When the baby grew older, his mother took him to the princess, and he became her son. She named him Moses. Many years later, God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.

God knew Moses would lead His people to freedom one day. He chose Miriam, a young girl, to help save Moses' life as a baby. Her actions kept Moses alive!

- **What character traits did Miriam show in this story?**

Allow children to share their ideas. They can say the traits from the opening activity, as well as others.

Miriam showed great care when she stood nearby to make sure her baby brother was okay. She showed great courage when she talked to the Pharaoh's daughter. We can imagine that slave girls probably did not talk to Egyptian princesses. It is possible that she could have been punished or even killed for her boldness. Miriam also showed respect for her mother when she went to get her to nurse the baby. Miriam was wise and made good, quick decisions!

- **What does it tell you about God that He chose to use Miriam to help save Moses?**

God uses anyone in His story.

- **What does it tell you about God's view of children?**

The Bible tells us more about Miriam. Years later when she was an adult, Miriam and the other Israelites followed Moses out of Egypt. Pharaoh sent his army to chase after them. The Israelites were trapped with the army behind them and the Red Sea in front of them. God divided the waters, and the Israelites walked across the Red Sea on dry ground. But the Egyptian army drowned in the sea. After the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, Miriam led all the women in singing and dancing. Listen to the words she sang:

If you are using the Memory Verse Poster, show it to the students.

*Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted.
Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea."*

Exodus 15:21

- **What other character traits would you use to describe Miriam?**

Allow children to share their ideas. They may say things such as leader of women, worshipper, or musician.

3. Responding: Create and sing songs of praise.

People who lived in Egypt when Moses was a baby may have thought Miriam was just a young slave girl who could never do anything important. Maybe there are people who think similar things about you. But that is not what God thought of Miriam. And it is not what God thinks of you.

God values you if you are a girl. He values you if you are a boy. He sees you. He cares about you. God used Miriam in His plan to lead His people out of slavery. He used Miriam to help save Moses' life. God invites you to be a part of His big plan too!

Teacher Tip: If any children express interest in or have questions about belonging to God's family and having a part in His big story, share the information from the Salvation Path, which you can download below.

*Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted.
Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea."*

Exodus 15:21

Have the children quickly find partners.

Think of something good God has done for you or for someone you know. Maybe God led you to this class. Maybe He comforted you when you were scared, provided food when you were hungry, or helped you make a friend.

Pause briefly for children to think quietly.

With your partner, create and sing a song of praise to God with 2 parts like Miriam's song had. For example: I praise You, God. Thank you for... (finish the sentence with something God has done for you).

Optional: If you are using Student Pages, there is space for children to write their songs on them.

Teacher Tip: If you are comfortable singing in front of the children, think of your own song of praise and share it with them as an example. Hearing your song may help some children become more comfortable singing their own songs.

Give pairs time to create and sing their songs. If you have time, allow the pairs to share their songs with everyone.

Optional: If you have the optional musical instruments, allow the children to use them as they share their songs.

When your children are finished with their songs, close class by speaking the following blessing based on Exodus 15:21, over them.

Blessing: Sing to the Lord, for He is highly honoured! Like Miriam, you can play a part in God's redemption story. May God fill you with courage and wisdom.

Lead the children in singing this quarter's song, if possible. "Holy Forever" by Chris Tomlin
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkHgxCemCRk>