

Miriam is my name. I am sister to the great Moses, leader of the Israelites. He was born during a horrible time in our history. It is a miracle that he survived. God clearly had plans for him! Other brothers of ours were not so lucky.

My mother could not bear to lose him, so in order to save him; she gave him up to be raised by another woman. Her pain and heartbreak was more than I could take. After she put him into the reeds in the river, I watched and waited. I hid there waiting for an Egyptian to find him. We knew that Pharaoh's daughter bathed in that very spot. And, we had heard that she was a good person. For my mother, it seemed his only hope of survival. I was shocked when it actually worked.

I was only a girl at the time. I saw things that no girl of that age should witness. Pharaoh hated us. I don't know why. My father always told us it was simple - he was afraid of us. But, I didn't understand this. How could he be afraid of those whom were enslaved to him? To me, it seemed we had no power; in fact, we had no hope.

I offer you the gift of courage. I wish I could think of a better word for it. I do not want you to misunderstand. I was terrified. While I had heard that Pharaoh's daughter was kind, I had never had the opportunity to find out for myself. I should not have been near her and her maids as she prepared to bathe. She could have just as easily taken me to her father and had me killed.

As I stood in the bushes thinking of what to do and say and trying to decide if I would run instead, I imagined the tears streaming down my mother's face when she placed Moses in that basket. Any courage I was able to muster came from my desire to help her. And, I did. After Pharaoh's daughter found him, I took a deep breath and I came out of hiding. I came up with the only thing I could think of that would reunite my mother and her son. When the princess agreed, I ran! I was elated, but still frightened. What if it is was a trap? What if I had not only endangered myself, but now my mother as well? For all I knew while I was gone, they were drowning Moses to follow Pharaoh's commands to kill every Hebrew boy.

But, she didn't do that. The stories of her kindness had been right. And, my mother was able to nurse her own son while knowing that he would be safe right under the nose of the king who wanted to kill his kind.

That night she and I sat by the fire as she rocked Moses. Mother laughed and cried and cried and laughed. She told me that she should be angry with me for doing such a crazy thing, that she had never had courage like she saw in me, and that she was thankful that God had protected all of us.

I've never really thought of myself as courageous. But, I suppose when a girl can face her fears to put the needs of others first, there must be courage involved. And, I know that any such courage is a gift straight from God. If God had not been helping me, I would have stayed in those bushes!

## *Discussion Suggestions - The Child Miriam*

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We have all had to be courageous at one time or another. Courage is a gift that each of us possesses, but we aren't always successful at letting it shine. Sometimes fear gets the best of us and wins out over our courage. That is simply part of being human.

In our monologue, we have the privilege of meeting the young child, Miriam. Miriam was the older sister of Moses. Early in her life, her gift of courage was apparent. She would go on to use that gift many times in her lifetime, and by doing so would ultimately help her people reach the beloved Promise Land.

Miriam's story begins with her being a part of God's plan from the beginning. As she watched her baby brother, Moses, float in the waters of the Nile, she knew she was in great danger. But she stayed, and courageously approached Pharaoh's daughter with a plan that would set a string of God-purposed events in action. She was terrified, to be sure, but as she knew, we can be terrified and courageous at the same time.

- ✦ God has a plan for each of us too. Reflect on your own life. In looking back, where is it now apparent that the hand of God was upon a situation while you were unaware of what God was doing?
- ✦ How can we become more aware of God's hand in everything that happens?
- ✦ Where does our courage come from in trying times?
- ✦ Share together about a time or times when you had to find courage to do something that you knew was important and right.
- ✦ Miriam states in her monologue, "...when a girl can face her fears to put the needs of others first, there must be courage involved." How good are we at putting the needs of others before ourselves? Is this an area in which we need to focus?

Courage comes from within. It is a true gift of God. Sometimes it is hard to muster the courage we feel we need to accomplish certain things. But we must remember whose Almighty hand is protecting us, encouraging us, and loving us. It is there within each of us. All we need to do is trust and move forward.

### **PRAYER:**

Close in prayer, asking God to strengthen our courage to do what is right in His eyes and according to His plan.