

Little Moishe

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



Theme and Purpose

The book of Exodus is a heroic story of the people of God overcoming the most powerful society on Earth to win their freedom from slavery. But unlike other ancient national origin stories, the hero of Exodus is not a man. Though Moses (Moishe in Hebrew pronunciation) figures prominently, at key points in the narrative Moses, like the people, simply wait for God to act. And act God does. The hero of Exodus is God. Interestingly, before God begins to use Moses to free the Hebrews, God first uses women. God honors women even in societies that do not. The resurrection was first announced to women at a time when legally women were not considered reliable witnesses. And in Exodus, God uses women to stymie Pharaoh's evil plans and to put in motion the events that would free Israel. It's funny and also awe-inspiring. God can use women, slaves, even you and me.

Cast list	Jochebed (pronounced yo-keh'-bed with a k in the back of the throat) – Moses' mother (see Exodus 6:20,26). Shiphrah (Shif'-rah) – Hebrew midwife Puah – Hebrew midwife
Approximate Running Time	Approximately 4 minutes
Scene Description	The home of a Hebrew slave.
Prop List	Rough table or bench White linens or towels Ceramic cups and pitcher
Other Production Notes	If your actors can pull it off, the script reads best using Yiddish accents.
Related Scriptures	Exodus 1:15-22; Exodus 2:1-10
Song Suggestions	Use Me, Who God is Gonna Use (Rich Mullins), How Great is Our God

(Shiphrah and Puah enter, holding linens. They stand or kneel behind table or bench and begin folding them at the table or bench while carrying on a low conversation with each other. Jochebed rushes in excitedly.)

JOCHEBED

Puah! Shiphrah! There you are. I've been looking all over for you. Have I got some news! Such news! You won't believe it.

PUAH

What is it, Jochebed?

SHIPHRAH

(comes around to front of table or bench)

Sit down. Sit down.

(pours a cup of water)

Have a little water. You're about to burst.

(Jochebed sits on the edge of the table and sips the water, catching her breath.)

JOCHEBED

I am about to burst. You won't believe what happened today!

SHIPHRAH

What? Was it bad?

JOCHEBED

Was it bad? No, it wasn't bad. Would I be so happy if it was bad?

PUAH

It depends on who it was bad for.

JOCHEBED

Well, you have a point. But this is good news, great news! My little Moishe is saved!

(Puah and Shiphrah both make exclamations of joy.)

PUAH

How did this happen? Pharaoh has been having all the Hebrew boy babies killed.

JOCHEBED

That's what I want to tell you about. You won't believe how it happened.

SHIPHRAH

Tell us. We'll believe you.

JOCHEBED

Oh, you won't believe this.

PUAH

(moving to front of table or bench)
We'll believe. We'll believe. Tell us already.

JOCHEBED

(Jochebed stands and moves to center stage)
Well. My little Moishe is so beautiful. Such a beautiful boy!

PUAH

(agreeing)
He's beautiful. No denying.

JOCHEBED

I just couldn't stand to see him killed. So I prayed to God to save him somehow. And you know what?

SHIPHRAH

What?

JOCHEBED

You won't believe it.

(Puah and Shiphrah give her a look.)

JOCHEBED

Well, maybe you will. Anyway, it was like God spoke to me. But it was like God was saying, "Put him in a basket and hide him in the Nile."

(Puah and Shiphrah look horrified.)

PUAH

The Nile! With the crocodiles?

JOCHEBED

That's what I thought. But as I said, it was like I heard God say it. So what was I supposed to do - ask if there was another God with a better idea? I took a basket and coated it with tar so it would float. Then I put my little Moishe in it, and wrapped him up tight. Oh, I couldn't just leave him in the Nile. So I had my Miriam - she's such a good girl that Miriam - I had her keep watch over him. And then...

(starts laughing)

and then... oh, you won't believe... well, let me just tell you.

PUAH AND SHIPHRAH

What? What?

JOCHEBED

You know who came along? Pharaoh's daughter, the princess. And she saw my little Moishe. And she fell in love with him. Well, of course, she did - he's such a beautiful baby. But I think she knew he was a Hebrew baby sentenced to die, and she felt sorry for him. She took him in her arms, and Miriam heard her say, "I'm going to save you, little Hebrew boy. I'm going to adopt you as my own."

SHIPHAH

I don't believe you!

JOCHEBED

(Jochebed returns to bench)

Ah ha! I told you! But it happened! But wait! It gets better!

PUAH

It gets better?

JOCHEBED

Much better. The princess called over my Miriam and asked her...

(starts laughing)

asked her...

(can't stop laughing)

SHIPHAH

What did she ask? What did she ask? You're killing us!

JOCHEBED

She asked

(pausing for effect)

if Miriam could find a Hebrew nurse for the little boy.

(They all start laughing.)

JOCHEBED

My Miriam said - oh, she's such a good girl - she said, "It'll be difficult." So the princess offered to pay her! And Miriam ran right to me. So now I am hired to Pharaoh's household to raise my own son! So not only did God keep my Moishe safe, He gave him back to me.

PUAH

I tell you, God is good.

JOCHEBED

Yes, and he has a sense of humor! What a joke on Pharaoh! He wanted to kill my little Moishe, and now he's being raised right under Pharaoh's nose.

(They all laugh again. Shiphrah stands and moves behind bench or table. Jochebed scoots over so that Shiphrah is in the center.)

SHIPHRAH

Well, you know our story. Pharaoh told us, as midwives, to kill the Hebrew boys as they were being delivered.

PUAH

Well, of course, we would never do such a thing.

JOCHEBED

No. How could you?

SHIPHRAH

We didn't! That's what I'm saying. But we had to tell Pharaoh something to explain why all these boys kept being born.

(starts to laugh, then says,
conspiratorially)

So we told him that the Hebrew women were so strong that the babies kept being born before we could get there.

JOCHEBED

(snickering)
And he believed that?

PUAH

He believed it. The Egyptians say Pharaoh is a god. But I prefer a God a little smarter.

SHIPHRAH

The most powerful man in the world. And who outwits him?
Three Hebrew slave women!

JOCHEBED

Four Hebrew slave women. Don't forget my Miriam.

SHIPHRAH

Four Hebrew slave women. Who would have thought it?

JOCHEBED

God thought it. God is so great He can work through anybody to do anything. It's amazing.

PUAH

And it shows you who God regards. Not the powerful Pharaoh, but us - women, slaves, the downtrodden.

JOCHEBED

It makes you remember that we weren't always slaves, and we won't always be slaves. I've got my little Moishe in the palace. Who knows what will come of this?

SHIPHRAH

It's getting dark, Jochebed. We'll walk you home.

(They exit together.)

Fade to black

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