

## Can God Still Provide a Way Out?

We live in a world with so much hurt and distress that one wonders if God can still provide a way out. This episode in the book of Exodus helps us to better understand the workings of God in our lives.

### Exodus 2 (story)

*Tension: Moses is hidden*

<sup>1</sup>Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, <sup>2</sup>and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup>But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.

*Relief of tension: Moses' life is saved*

<sup>9</sup>Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.' So the woman took the baby and nursed him.

*Result: Moses becomes the pharaoh's "grandchild"*

<sup>10</sup>When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, 'I drew him out of the water.' (NIV)

The pharaohs were viewed as gods, and were therefore very mighty. After their 400-year stay in Egypt, the Israelites multiplied to such an extent that Pharaoh regards them as a threat. He orders that when Hebrew boys are born, they are thrown into the Nile. However, in this episode we see that women, who at that time had no real power, jeopardize the mighty Pharaoh's plans.

This starts with Moses' mother, who circumvents Pharaoh's decree by hiding her son in the reeds. Pharaoh's own daughter then comes to Moses' rescue and, by doing so, foils her father's plans. However, she does not want to take responsibility for his upbringing, so, without realizing it, she returns him to his own mother, who feeds him and takes care of him. The best part is that the princess pays Moses' mother to do this! God uses socially disempowered women to undermine the mighty Pharaoh's plans. Unbelievable!

Through this story, we learn that God can provide a way out in surprising and unpredictable ways. Yet human beings are not passive in all this. In this particular story, Moses' mother weaved a papyrus basket and hid Moses in it while his sister looked out for him. God works in our lives so that we can take responsibility. For instance, it does not help to pray for a safe neighborhood without taking the responsibility to form a neighborhood watch or work closely with the local police. God can and will use our involvement to provide a way out.



Thank You, Lord, that You can provide a way out in surprising and unpredictable ways.

*Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand.*  
—Chinese Proverb