

Sunday School Play

# Drawn Out

## Cast:

Narrator:

Guard 1:

Guard 2:

Guard 3:

Pharaoh:

Count Populous:

Amram:

Jochebed:

Miriam:

Aaron:

Shiphrah:

Puah:

Master Tasks:

Hebron:

Pharaoh's Daughter

Maid 1

Maid 2

Maid 3

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## Scene 1: Pharaoh's Court

Narrator:

And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them. And there arose a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

*Action:*

*Pharaoh and the court are sitting around. Census officer comes in.*

Guard 1:

Announcing: The Official Census Officer, Count Populous

Pharaoh:

Come in Count Populous

Count Populous:

Greetings Pharaoh.

Pharaoh:

Well, Count Populous, what news have you got for me?

Count Populous:

Oh, your people are a mighty people. One of the greatest nations on earth. They now number about one and a half million.

Pharaoh:

What do you mean ONE of the greatest nations of greatest nations on earth?

**Count Populous:** Well, we are the GREATEST nation... that's not what I meant... Um, it's just that the Jews are very fruitful and have increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceedingly mighty and the land is filled with them.

**Pharaoh:** The children of Israel are mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and get them up out of the land.

**Count Populous:** That sounds like a great idea. Let's set task masters over them, and put them to work on your building projects... rather than paying laborers... We can use them!

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## **Scene 2:**

*Action:* Amram and Jochebed are sitting at the table.

**Narrator:** Meanwhile, back in Goshen, the family of Amram are about to have supper.

**Amram:** Aaron... stop tormenting your sister would you... It's bad enough the Egyptians torment us all day long – without you doing it all night long too!

**Aaron:** Sorry dad... but she started it.

**Miriam:** Did not!

**Aaron:** Did too!

**Jochebed:** That's enough! Listen to your father! Come and sit at the table. Have you washed your hands?

**Children:** Yes mother.

**Amram:** Things are not good children. If I seem a little tense it is because things are not going well. The Egyptians fear that we are going to overrun the place, join the enemies and leave the country.

**Aaron:** Why would we leave this country, there's fish and leeks and garlic?

**Amram:** Well, children, one day we will. God promised our father Abraham that after 400 years of bondage we would return to the land of Canaan which he gave to him for a possession. Sadly, we're not at the end of the 400 years yet. I pray God he will send us a deliver though.

**Jochebed:** Well, the Egyptians are right about one thing. There are lots of births all around the place. Your three uncles and their wives are all expecting! Who knows maybe one day you will have a little sibling to look after too!

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### **Scene 3: Pharaoh's Court**

**Narrator:** Meanwhile, back at Pharaoh's court the news is all about the Jews.

**Guard 2:** Announcing Count Populous....

**Pharaoh:** Well, Populous... what's the good news?

**Populous:** Things are going great Pharaoh. The City of Ramsees is coming along quite well. Very nice statues too – a nice likeness to your royal majesty, very becoming I'd say! Although the Sphinx needs a nose job... ever since the lightning strike he's...

**Pharaoh:** That is not what I am talking about. If I wanted a building report I'd have called for Layus and Brickus the builders... or the task masters... Now, what's the news about the Jews?

**Populous:** Well... that part is not going so well. The more you afflict them... the more they multiply. There's more of them now than there was before.

**Pharaoh:** We need another plan. (Yells to the guard) Call in the Hebrew midwives!

**Guard 3:** Calling Shiphrah and Puah, the Hebrew Midwives.

**Pharaoh:** You ladies must be busy these day.

**Shiphrah:** Oh, we're run off our feet. There are babies being born every minute.

**Pharaoh:** Yes.... I see. Well, we'd we've come up with a new plan to control the population. We've passed a new law: (reads from the scroll)  
"When you do the office of the midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them on the stools; if it be a son then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live."

*Action:* Pharaoh motions with his hand for the midwives to leave. They both go out looking very worried. (down the stairs to stage right).

**Puah:** Can you believe what he just said! We can't do that.

**Shiphrah:** Do not fear the King, Puah... we cannot go against what God would have us do. We'll think of something.

*Action:* Exit stage right to back classroom, count populous leaves too.

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## **Scene 4: Pharaoh's Court**

**Narrator:** The midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. We join Pharaoh back in the palace going over the drawings for his new city.

*Pharaoh goes over the drawings in the palace...*

**Guard 3:** Announcing....

**Guard 1:** Hey... it is my turn to do the announcing... don't hog all the announcements.

**Guard 3:** Well, all right. But I get to do the next execution.

**Guard 1:** Make it two announcing and you've got a deal.

**Guard 3:** Done.

**Guard 1:** Announcing the Master of Tasks

**Pharaoh:** Well Master Tasks, how's my city coming?

**Master Task:** Well we've finished the main structures... just running a little behind on the decorating.

**Pharaoh:** What's the holdup?

**Master Tasks:** Well, the decorating is done by the Hebrew Slave Women... and we've had quite a few absences lately.

**Pharaoh:** I thought I cancelled all holidays!?!

**Master Task:** Well, there are not holiday's any more since you passed the "Bitter and Hard Bondage" law, but all the women are allowed time off for maternity leave.

**Pharaoh:** Send for Populous I want to see how things are progressing with my population control schemes!

**Guard 2:** Pharaoh calls Count Populous.

**Count Populous:** Yes Pharaoh... what does your majesty require?

**Pharaoh:** Status report....

**Count Populous:** Steady increase in the Hebrew population... actually more of a population explosion, I'd say.

**Pharaoh:** What about the boys?

**Count Populous:** Equal to the girls. These are definitely healthy Hebrews.

**Pharaoh:** Call the Midwives!

**Guard 3:** Pharaoh calls Shiphrah and Puah, the Hebrew Midwives.

**Guard 1:** That was a 2 for 1 announcement... that's not fair.

*Action:* *Midwives enter from back of hall, classroom on stage right. Come up the isle.*

**Puah** (*coming up isle*) **We're in for it. Pharaoh isn't going to be very happy with us.**

**Shiphrah** **Let me do the talking... remember, God will protect us.**

**Midwives:** **Yes your majesty?**

**Pharaoh:** **Why have you done this thing and saved the children alive?**

**Shiphrah:** **Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered before the midwives can make it to their houses.**

**Pharaoh:** **Away with you both.**

*Action:* *Shiphrah and Puah run down the isle and out of the room.*

**Pharaoh:** **That's it... We'll make a decree to all the Hebrew people directly: Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.**

**Narrator:** **Because the Midwives feared God, God dealt with them, and made them houses. News of the new soon decree reached the children of Israel in the land of Goshen.**

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## **Scene 5: Amram's House**

**Narrator:** **Meanwhile, back at Amram's house, exciting news is being discussed around the kitchen table.**

*Action:* *Amram walks in. Jochebed and children are around the table.*

**Amram:** **Well, how's Amram's household today?**

**Miriam:** **Good Abba. Aaron and I haven't fought all day long.**

**Aaron:** **And our rooms are clean... do you want to see?**

**Amram:** **In a moment. That is good to hear you are learning to get along better. With all the trouble the Egyptians give us... we need to be at peace with one another.**

**Jochebed:** **Mother has some news too.**

**Amram:** Yes....

**Jochebed:** The house of Amram is to be enlarged.

**Amram:** We've just put on a new kitchen before the "Bitter and Hard Bondage" laws were passed. Where will we find the time to build more rooms?

**Jochebed:** Not bricks and mortar my husband... we're going to have another child.

**Amram:** That is great news! After all we're the last ones on the block to have another child! We've got to keep up with the Robinsons. They have seven, and their new chariot has room for three more! We're doing our part to and make Abraham's name great!

*Action:* *Knock at the door.*

**Amram:** Miriam, go and get the door, tell me who it is.

*Action:* *Miriam runs to get the door.*

**Miriam:** It's Hebron.

**Amram:** Well let him in..... Come in Hebron. Aaron, get your uncle a chair.

**Amram** (once Hebron is seated) **Today is a day of good news! What good news does my brother bring?**

**Hebron:** Not good news my brother. Very bad news. Pharaoh has issued a decree that all newborn Hebrew baby boys are to be thrown into the river!

**Amram:** That is terrible! First the midwives, now this! The people won't do it.

**Hebron:** Not everyone has your faith Amram. We're thankful our boys are old enough – as is your Aaron. Some families have already been forced to comply – or face death themselves.

**Jochebed:** That is horrible. What a wicked king. He should be cast into the sea!

**Hebron:** You said you had good news... let me hear it. I need a little good news today.

**Amram:** Jochebed is expecting a baby.

**Aaron:** What if it is a boy? What will we do then dad?

**Amram:** Then, we will rejoice. We will not fear the king's commandment – but put our trust in God.

**Hebron:** These are troubling times.... We need to pray to God for a deliverer.

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## **Scene 6: Moses is Born.**

**Narrator:** And so in the process of time, Jochebed gave birth. The family gathered round the baby and decided what to do.

*Action:* *Miriam, Aaron and Amram crowd around the Jochebed and the baby.*

**Miriam:** Isn't he beautiful father. He is so fair.

**Aaron:** He is a proper child indeed.

**Jochebed:** Whatever will we do?

**Amram:** Well, here's what we'll do. We're going to hide him. We'll keep him in the back room.

**Aaron:** I could bring home some chickens today so that their squawking will disguise his.

**Amram:** Very good idea Aaron. You children will be on watch duty like little guards to make sure that nobody gets to see him. Most importantly, we'll pray to God to deliver us.

*Action:* *Scene Freeze*

**Narrator:** Three Months would pass and the family carefully hid the child by faith, not fearing the wrath of the king. But the child grew and it became more difficult to hide him.

*Action:* *Unfreeze*

**Jochebed:** It's no use Amram. We've been trying to keep this baby quiet all day. I think he's teething.

**Aaron:** He's bawling like a mule with its tail shut in the barn door!

**Amram:** I know. People at work are beginning to suspect something is up too. I'm not getting any sleep. Showing up to work late... We can't hide him any longer.

**Miriam:** Whatever shall we do father?

**Aaron:** Maybe we could bring sheep and cows in too as well as the chickens, that might help disguise his cries. Or how about a peacock... they make a right racket!

**Amram:** No children... we cannot hide him any more.

**Aaron:** We're not going to throw him in the river are we!?!

**Amram:** No... not exactly. It is time to put our precious little gift from God in God's hands. We will put our trust in him and he will deliver us. God saved Noah and his family with an ark. We will build an ark of bulrushes. Put the baby in it and place it in the river... then we will stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.

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## **Scene 7:**

**Narrator:** The next day the little family went down to the river and place the baby in the ark of bulrushes. Following a prayer they set he baby adrift on the water.

*Action:* *Jochebed places the baby into the ark.... And they push it into the river.*

**Amram:** Well, there he goes.... He is in God's hands now. Miriam, you follow along the river's edge. Come and tell us what happens.

*Action:* *Miriam follows the ark to the stage and stands back (by piano). Pharaoh's daughter approaches with a group of her maids... coming up the opposite isle.*

**Pharaoh's daughter:** Here's a good spot... nice and open. Who's in for a swim?

**Maid:** You know your father might not approve of us swimming out here so far from the palace.

**Pharaoh's daughter:** Oh, father.... I don't agree with everything he says.

**Maid 3:** Like not letting you have your own chariot?

**Pharaoh's daughter:** Well, that especially.

**Maid 2:** Well, you know what they say... if you're not living on the edge you are taking up too much space.

**Pharaoh's daughter:** Hey... what's that noise?

**Maid 2:** It sounds like a baby... over there.

**Pharaoh's daughter:** Well go and get it silly, a crocodile might eat it!

**Maid 2:** Ok quick! (about to jump) Wait a minute - what about me?

**Maid 3:** Well, 'if you are not living on the edge... you are taking up too much space'

**Maid2:** *(jumps into water)* That's fine for you to say... you are on the edge... I'm the one in the water

**Maid2:** *(returns with basket)* Oh look, it is a little boy in a basket.

**Pharaoh's daughter:** This is one of the Hebrew's children.

**Maid 1:** I suppose we'll have to drown him.

**Pharaoh's daughter:** No. We're not going to drown him... He is so beautiful. How could we hurt such a beautiful little boy.

**Maid 1:** You father did give a command – we'll have to drown him.

**Pharaoh's daughter:** Like I said, I don't agree with everything father says. I'm going to keep him for my own.

**Maid 2:** How are you going to look after him. You don't know the first thing about babies.

**Maid 4:** Yeah... I'd like to see you change a baby, that would be a real laugh!

**Miriam:** Excuse me.... I couldn't help but overhear. Shall I go and call to you a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?

**Maid 3:** Well there's a good deal.... You can play with him when you want, and if he cries or needs to be changed... you hand him over. It's almost like being a grandparent.

**Pharaoh's daughter:** Go... at once, fetch us this Midwife.

*Action: Miriam leaves*

**Maid 2:** What will you call him?

**Maid 4:** How about Tutankhamen. We could nick name him Toot

**Pharaoh's daughter:** I will call him Moses, because I drew him out of the water.

**Maid 1:** Now we are in for it... somebody is coming!

**Maid 3:** Silly, it is only the midwife:

**Maid 4:** For a minute I thought we might get grounded, or worse still – statue polishing duty!

*Action: Miriam returns with Jochebed*

**Miriam:** Here is a women who can help you, her name is Jochebed.

**Pharaoh's daughter:** Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages.

**Jochebed:** (walking away). See Miriam, "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

**Narrator:** And so God blessed the family of Aaron because they put their trust in God:  
"By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the kings commandment." (Heb 11:23)

**THE END**