



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020

ODD STORIES FOR ODD TIMES

VBS for all ages (0 to 100 +)

**RELEASED JUNE 22-26
CAN BE DONE AT ANY TIME**



Brief daily videos, questions for the dinner table, optional crafts, activities, recipes, and music



VBS 2020

“Odd Stories for Odd Times”

A ministry of Independence Christian Church and Ashland Christian Church in Ashland, VA.

Purpose: Vacation Bible School provides an opportunity for young people to engage with our sacred text and learn about what God did and is doing in our world. This year’s theme focuses on some of the lesser known/less frequently shared biblical stories, their context in the Bible and our faith, and why they matter to believers (and everyone) today. We hope the reflective questions and fun activities outlined below will provide an excellent opportunity for all.

With the onset of the CoVid-19 virus and safety measures implemented to protect our neighbors, we have changed the format of this year’s VBS from large group, in-person activities for children to a structure well suited for individuals, families and adults at home.

What to Expect:

Each day includes:

- scripture/video lesson (on Facebook daily)
- reflection/discussion/journal questions
- hands on activities
- food fun
- YouTube music videos

Do as little or as much as you want! Watch the video and/or read the scripture together as a family. Choose a few of the questions to talk about over dinner. Pick an activity that sounds interesting to you. Just want the discussion? Great! Prefer to learn through just the activities? Awesome! Want to do everything? Cool! Our goal is to give you choices to fit as many different ages and family personalities as possible.

The questions and activities are loosely organized in order from simple to more complex. Those with the youngest children may want to discuss just the first few questions. Those with older children and adults could use the first questions as an icebreaker then go deeper with the other questions. Some of the activities may be preferred by little kids, others could be

adapted to be simpler for younger kids or more complex for older kids and adults. Most importantly, choose what works best for you!

We have also included an appendix of printables, recipes and further instructions. Hint: if something is blue/underlined clicking it will take you to a website with more info.

Want something printed? Send an email to revisaacicc@gmail.com and we will help you out.

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Day 1: Raining Cats and ... Frogs?

Guiding passage: Exodus 8:1-15

What Happens: Plague of Frogs

Context: The Torah, the first five books of the Bible, describe how the people of God formed. Genesis focused on the origins of everything, while Exodus focused on the forging of the Hebrew people, especially through the giving of the Law. After the families of Jacob's offspring settled in Egypt, they were eventually enslaved. Here we read about one of a series of plagues the land of Egypt experienced prior to letting the Hebrews go. Moses had warned pharaoh of this possibility.



Discussion/Reflections:

- Were such a plague to happen today, name all the places in your house you might find frogs. What would you do with so many frogs?
- Describe what your day would look like if surrounded by frogs. What would you have to change or do differently?
- Knowing how annoying (potentially dangerous) it would be to have frogs everywhere and the need to clear them out, name some things you might want to get rid of in your life because of their annoyance or safety hazard (physical things like clutter, habits, concerns about your family/community/world).
- According to the story, what do you think God was trying to tell the Egyptians with this plague? Did it work? How would it have impacted the Hebrews?
- Natural disasters are sometimes considered acts of God. Do we believe that's how God works in the world? Why or why not? How might God be at work during such disasters? What would that look like?
- The Hebrew people were oppressed for many years, and only after severe disruption for the country were set free. How does this story of our faith parallel events happening in our country and world today?

Explorations (crafts, activities):

- Be a frog!

- Ribbit or croak like a frog. Ribbit quiet. Then loud. Take turns with your family. How many can you say before you start to laugh?
- Play leapfrog. One person crouches down on the floor, the next person jumps over them then crouches down. Repeat!
- Hop all around the house/outside, maybe adding a ribbit or two
- Find the frogs, they're everywhere!
 - Draw/color or print out some frogs ([appendix](#)), and place them in different parts of the house. Find them IN things, ON things, BETWEEN things. Take pictures of your favorite frog places. (think "Flat Stanley")
 - After your photo shoot collect all your frogs in a large pile. How fast can you get them? How many do you have?
- Go on a nature walk: Maybe you will spot a frog. What other creatures do you notice? What would it be like to have a plague of those creatures? Do any other nature items seem to "take over," like maybe grass, flowers, leaves, etc? Collect small items and turn it into a collage when you get home.

Food fun: Make popcorn, and you can add mix-ins like chocolate chips, M&Ms, peanuts. Why? Just like the frogs were found everywhere, popcorn gets everywhere! It gets stuck in your teeth and the smell lingers too. (Use puffs or Cheerios with freeze dried fruit for little kids)

Music:

Preschool/Early Elementary:

[Wide-Mouth Bullfrog Song-Can You Act it Out?](#)

Five Little Speckled Frogs <https://youtu.be/rejdf16Glp4>

Elementary:

Fully Rely on God = F.R.O.G. <https://youtu.be/IIY42ggArHU>

Speed Drawing Retelling Story https://youtu.be/6O_TPbMtaBQ

Day 2: Who Run the World?

Guiding passage: Exodus 2:1-10

What Happens: Moses' mother and sister save his life (after previous efforts of the Hebrew midwives).



Context: Women have played truly important roles throughout scripture, despite a patriarchal setting. Here we explore how Moses' mother and his sister Miriam save an infant Moses.

Dinner Discussion/Reflections:

- Moses was named by Pharaoh's daughter. How did you get your name? Where did it come from?
- Name all the problems solved by the women in the story.
- What would you be willing to do to save a family member? Immediate? Extended? What about a friend's family?
- Moses' story contains a lot of water moments, calling to mind baptism. How does baptism relate to this story? How about other events in Moses' life (like crossing the Red Sea)?
- The text says the baby was placed in the reeds near where Pharaoh's daughter went to bathe. Was this intentional? What does it say about the mother and the sister who watched? What does it tell us about the compassion of Pharaoh's daughter?
- Would we be willing to take on and raise an unwanted child? What would that mean for our own lives, or our family's? What would it mean for the child?
- Moses was obviously a Hebrew baby, yet Pharaoh's daughter was willing to take him on as her own. What might others say if we raised a child from another race? What difficulties and challenges might you face? What conversations would you have with this child regarding the differences in how people are treated (as defined by their race, ethnicity, language, class)?

Explorations (crafts, activities):

- Take Care of Moses: Play with a doll. Feed him. Change the diaper. Rock him to sleep.
- Protect Moses:

- Play with toy boats in your bathtub
- Make a boat out of your recyclables (cardboard boxes, egg cartons, etc). Try it out on water, does your boat float?
- Make an origami paper boat ([appendix](#))
- Make art using a weaving technique. Simplest is to take strips of paper and go over and under in an alternating pattern. (See [appendix](#)) Make it more complex by weaving with different materials (types of paper, ribbon, pipe cleaners, feathers, sticks, flowers, etc). Can you use your weaving technique to make a basket?
- Look for Moses
 - Play peek a boo
 - Play hide and seek (either someone in your family hides or you can take turns hiding a doll)
 - Do a hidden pictures puzzle ([appendix](#))
 - Do a maze ([appendix](#))
 - Do a puzzle
 - Which-object-is-missing game: Put several objects together in a group. Have someone leave the room/close their eyes. The rest of the family takes one object away. The person who closed their eyes then looks at the pile to try and remember what object is missing.
- Research your name meaning/history

Food fun: (see [appendix](#) for recipes)

- Milkshakes
- Blue Jello/gelatin fish bowl or any color/flavor jello cut into fish shapes
- “Moses in a basket” (pigs in a blanket)

Music:

Moses, Miriam and Aaron: Siblings: I'll Be There for You

<https://youtu.be/HeVYuwNVNcc>

Nothing Is Impossible [Nothing is Impossible | HLA Nazareth Music Video | Group Publishing](#)

Day 3: Leg Bone Connected to the Thigh Bone

Guiding passage: Ezekiel 37:1-10

What Happens: Valley of Dry Bones



Context: After the Torah we have a song book and wisdom writings.

Then come powerful writings from the prophets, who address the people of God about how they are falling short, and after facing the consequences of such living, the prophets deliver messages of hope. Here, the prophet Ezekiel delivers hope to those who have lost everything.

Dinner Discussion/Reflections:

- What's a dream you've had? Do you remember dreams?
- How would you feel if you discovered a bone, or bones?
- How do you feel when someone gives you instructions or directions and you know you can't do them?
- The people Ezekiel was addressing were very sad, having lost everything. When have you felt sad? What made you feel better?
- When you are worn out, feel like there's nothing left in the gas tank, or feel like a sack of bones, what do you do? How do you restore or re-energize yourself?
- Ezekiel is known as a prophet, a spokesperson for God. Why is God working through Ezekiel? How is that happening? What is God asking us to do as a result?
- How would we restore someone's life?

Explorations (crafts, activities):

- Find the bones:
 - Dig in a sandbox (or out in the dirt, or box of rice) for bones (Lego/DUPLO people, dollhouse dolls, small toy animals, cut up pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, cotton swabs, etc)
 - Look for sticks outside. Collect them and recreate what Ezekiel may have seen. Imagine you are Moses walking through the valley of bones
- Bones come together
 - Click sticks (or wooden spoons or pencils) together to make the noises of rattling bones

- Use playdoh or clay to make people/other creatures
- Take pictures of each other making muscle poses. How many different poses can you do?
- Draw a picture of people. Could use images of a form figure to inspire your drawing (see [appendix](#)). Can you include some of the words from the story in your art?
- Make a self portrait (just your head, full body, or just trace your hand) and include a list of the amazing traits God sees in you
- Breathe
 - Blow bubbles
 - Learn about the human body via book, app, website and/or song (leg bone connected to the...) (see [appendix](#))
 - Play Simon says
 - Practice breathing exercises (see [appendix](#))
- Act out the whole story, taking turns being Ezekiel or the bones coming together

Food fun: Let's get messy and play with our food! Make dirt (peanut butter/crushed Graham crackers/crushed Oreos) with bones (pretzel rods and marshmallows) and make skeletons (could also make dirt pudding dessert like: [Original No-Bake Dirt Pie With Worms Recipe](#))

Music:

Dem Dry Bones <https://youtu.be/ZdShq4X9vu8> or <https://youtu.be/HrzBsUtUdts>

Made for This [Made For This | Maker Fun Factory VBS | Group Publishing](#)

Day 4: Shiny Happy People

Guiding passage: Mark 9:2-10

What Happens: The Transfiguration of Jesus

Context: The New Testament shares the stories of Jesus and the movement he began that we know as the church today. Several key events happened throughout his life (and after) that solidified his importance to our faith. This mountaintop experience, known as the Transfiguration, involves three of his disciples witnessing Jesus receiving blessing and authority from Moses (giver of the Law), Elijah (prophet), and God.



Dinner Discussion/Reflections:

- What is something so bright you can't look at?
- What happens when you are in the dark for a long time, and then someone turns on the light?
- What's something that is bright that you enjoy looking at?
- Have you gotten anything so clean it shines?
- How do you respond when you're afraid of something?
- What does this event tell us about Jesus? Who is he? Why is he important? Who says such things and why should we listen to them?
- Who are people we look up to? Are there famous people we admire? Why? Have others lifted them up as special?
- Why were only three disciples invited up the mountain? Why did Jesus tell them not to share what they had experienced on the way down?

Explorations (crafts, activities):

- Climb the mountain: find a way to climb. Can you climb on your parent? The couch? Top of the stairs? Playground equipment? A ladder?
- Transform
 - Flashlight fun! Walk around the house looking for items that remind you of God or church. Shine the flashlight on them when you find it. OR make shadow puppets. Your family guesses what you're making.
 - Put on glow sticks. Turn off the lights and have a dance party

- Magic art. Use a white crayon on white paper to draw a picture or write some words. (Press firmly) It's hard to draw when you can't see it! Paint over it with watercolor paint. Your picture will appear as you paint.
- Try some vinegar/baking soda experiments [10 Fun and Easy Baking Soda and Vinegar Experiments](#)
- Make a cloud/fog in your house ([Weather science: How to make a cloud in a jar \(2 different methods!\)](#))
- Shaving cream prayer [Shaving Foam Cloud Prayers](#)
- Listen
 - Senses: take a breath and notice the room you are in. Name 5 things you hear, 5 you see, 5 you can touch, can you smell or taste anything?
 - Follow sound of my voice game. Set up a small obstacle course. One person is blindfolded. The others use their words to tell them how to make it through the course
 - Play Headbanz game. You put a picture on your forehead and you ask questions to figure out what it is. Easy to make your own! (See [appendix](#))

Food fun:

Make root beer/soda floats. Just like Jesus transformed before the Disciples' eyes this fun treat also changes right in front of us! Put a scoop of ice cream in a cup. Add some soda and enjoy the foam!

Music:

He is the Light [Light of the World | Cave Quest VBS Music Video | Group Publishing](#) or

[He Is the Light | Cave Quest VBS Music Video | Group Publishing](#)

This Little Light Of Mine <https://youtu.be/cKkblZtqhyQ> or <https://youtu.be/ZdsPbE9awKY>

Thankful [Thankful | Roar VBS | Group Publishing](#)

Day 5: Endgame

Guiding passage: Revelation 21:1-7

What Happens: A powerful vision of a new heaven and new earth

Context: As the early church spread the good news, they encountered those who would do anything to silence them. The book of Revelation was written to inspire hope in people who were severely oppressed and marginalized by the Roman government, using coded language and metaphor in order to avoid the wrath of the state. What will happen at the end? God's will be done.



Dinner Discussion/Reflections:

- What is something you can erase and start over? (i.e. chalk, marker board, magna doodle)
- If you had the chance to do something over, like a project or activity, what might you do differently? What would you keep the same?
- During this time of physical separation and distance, what are some of the things you miss? What will you do differently when more restrictions are lifted? Discuss what might be different and what might return as it was before.
- What are some roses (positives), thorns (negatives), and buds (growing areas) about this time of social distancing?
- How do you think our country (and our world) will emerge from this time? What about the impact of the protests? Will it be more like heaven, or more of the same?

Explorations (crafts, activities):

- Erase the old
 - Build with blocks. Knock it down then build again
 - Draw or write on a chalkboard or dry erase board. Erase and repeat
- New city came from heaven

- Have a container of cotton balls for little ones to explore. Could add some blocks and leaves. Think about what is coming down from heaven
 - Use any material you wish to create an amazing, pain free earth. (Journal, draw, paint, collage, Legos, playdoh, etc)
 - Find emojis to describe your thoughts on our current world/situation and emojis to describe a new earth
 - Take a walk. What would go away? What would stay in a new earth?
- God with us
- God is the beginning and end. A circle can remind us of this. Do a scavenger hunt for circles in your house and outside
 - Make art using only circles. Will you trace the bottom of a glass several times and color the circles in? Will you cut out circles and glue them somewhere? Will you make a circle chain? Maybe watercolor paint on cotton rounds (see [appendix](#))? Little ones could use dot markers!
 - God is with us in the new earth. Does that mean we can see God? If so create God using any material or journal to describe using words. Or can you only feel God? What does God feel like? Little kids can explore different textures like soft, hard, rough.

Food fun: Make infused water. Add various berries, cucumber or mint to a pitcher of water. What fun flavors did you make? We made the water new and we remember God gave us life-giving water.

Music:

Let's Get a Little Crazy [Let's Get A Little Crazy | Kingdom Rock VBS Music Video | Group Publishing](#)

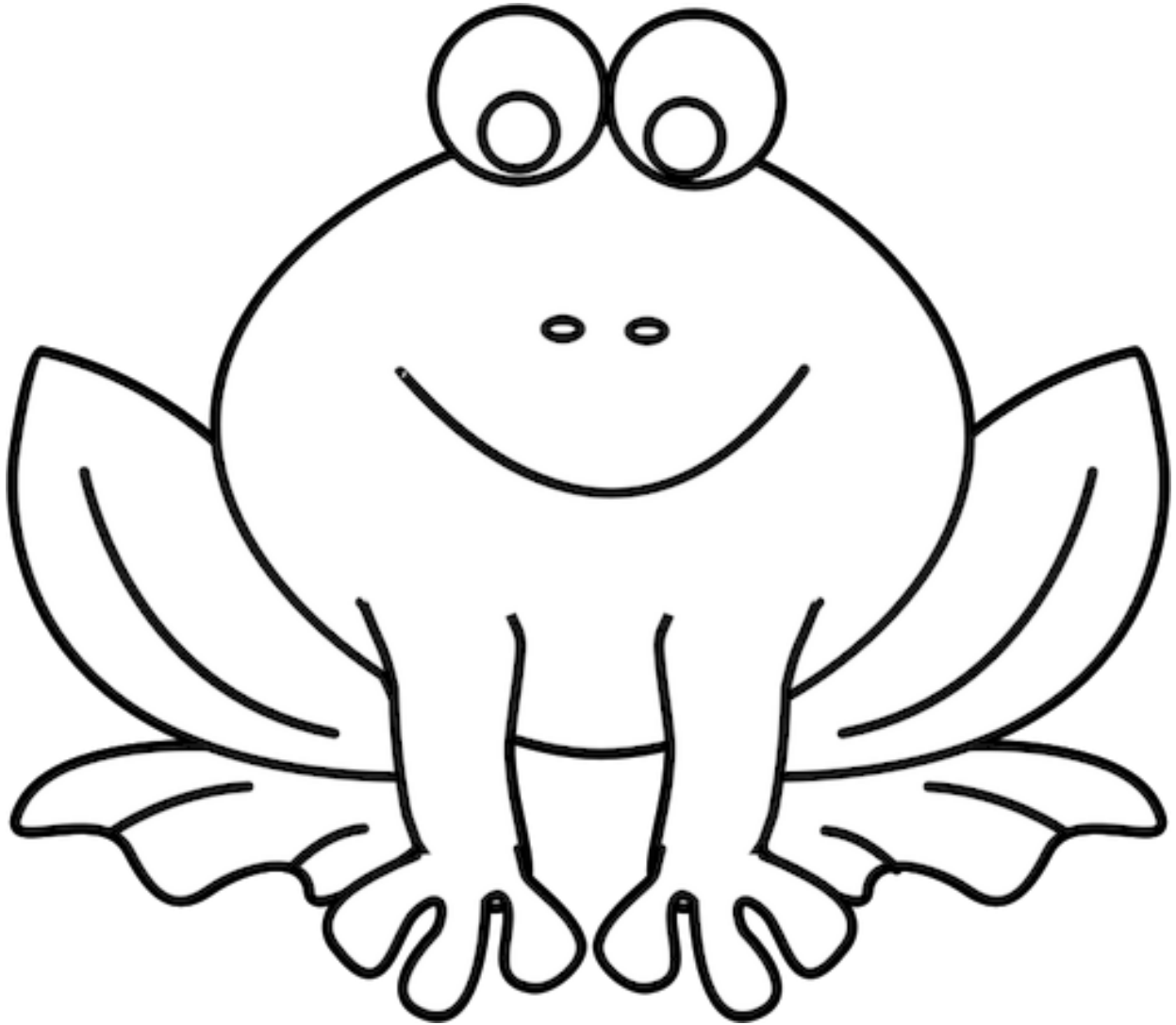
All Around the World [All Around the World | Weird Animals VBS | Group Publishing](#)

I'm All In? [I'm All In | Cave Quest VBS Music Video | Group Publishing](#)

Appendix

Day 1:

Frog images:





Day 2:

How to Make a Paper Boat Tutorial (link has video and pics):

[How to Make a Paper Boat | Origami Boat Tutorial](#)

Materials

- letter sized paper (8.5 x 11) any colour

Instructions

1. Grab a piece of letter sized paper. Fold it in half lengthwise, then open it up again.
2. Next, fold it width-wise, and rotate the paper so the fold is at the top.
3. Take each of the top corners and fold them downwards so that the edges line up with the center fold.
4. Take one layer of the bottom flap and fold it upwards.
5. Flip the folded paper over. There should be two little flaps showing behind the triangle shape. Fold those flaps over on a diagonal.
6. Take the remaining bottom flap and fold it upwards.
7. Pick up the folded paper and place your thumbs into the opening at the bottom. Slowly pull your thumbs apart from one another, pulling the paper apart as you go. When you finish pulling, the paper should be flat.
8. Run your fingers along all of the folds, pressing to make sure it's completely flat and all the edges are folded.
9. Pick up the folded piece of paper. At the top point, pull apart the 2 sides of folded paper. As you pull it apart, it should open up into the shape of a boat.
10. Adjust the paper if needed to make sure it's boat-shaped, then pinch along the bottom edges to make a fold on each side.
11. Now your paper boat is complete!

Weaving

Paper weaving (pics in link): [Classic Kids Craft: Paper Weaving](#)

Materials:

colored paper
strips of colored or patterned paper
scissors

Instructions:

Fold your base paper in half and cut slits starting at the fold. Stop your cuts an inch or two from the edge. You don't have to limit yourself to straight cuts – try wavy lines or zigzags for interesting patterns when you weave. You can evenly space your slits, or mix it up and see what unique pattern you create.

Unfold your paper and begin weaving your strips over and under. Paper weaving is a great workout for little fingers! Young kids might need your help to get started, but they should pick up the simple technique pretty quickly. Alternate starting your strips over or under and keep weaving until you run out of room.

If necessary, trim up the edges and you're done!

More fun weaving options:

Paper basket weaving: [How to Make a Paper Basket: 15 Steps \(with Pictures\)](#)

Collection of different types of weaving: [15+ Unique Homemade Looms for Weaving with Kids](#)

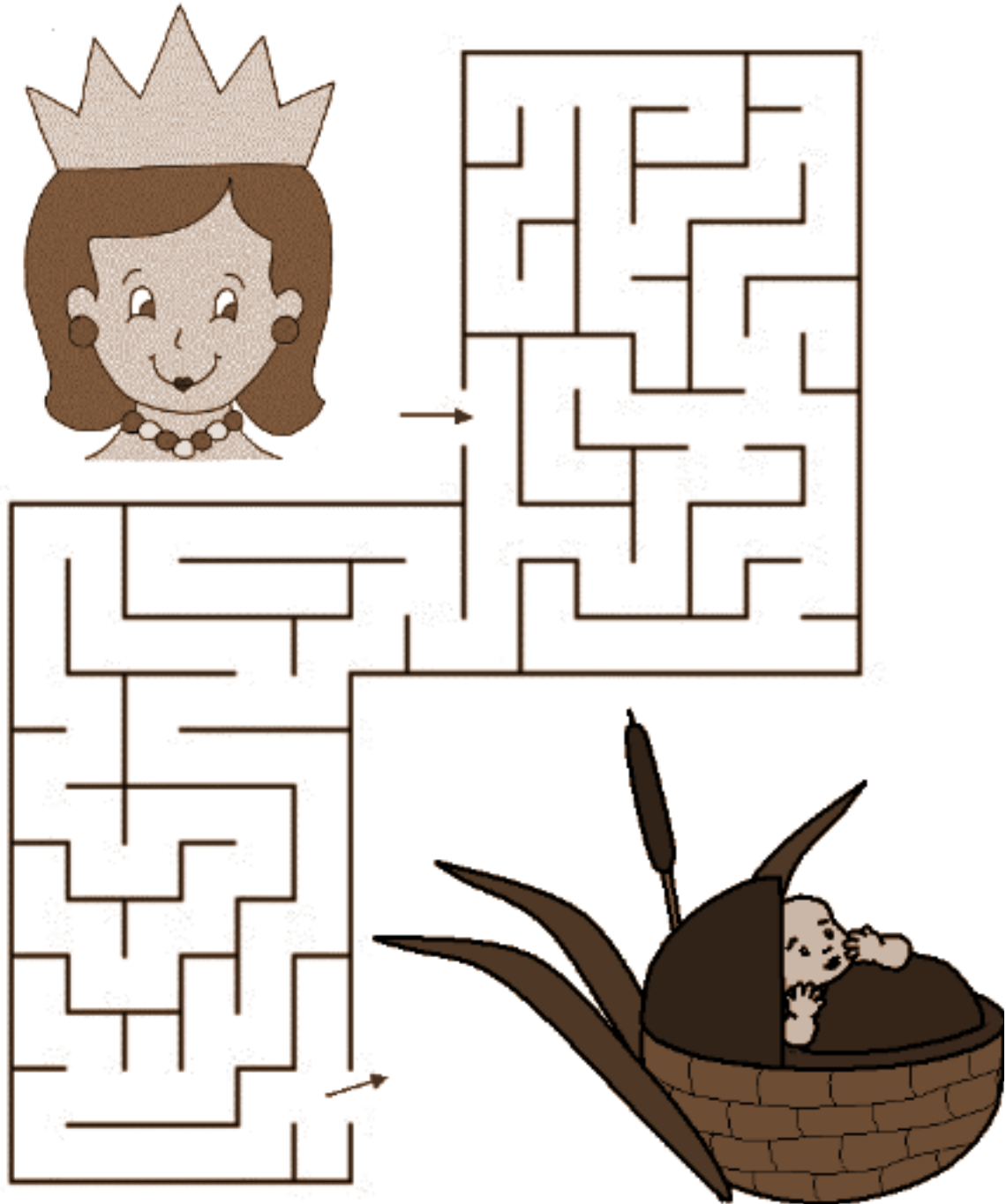
Nature weaving: [Nature Weaving](#)

Circle weaving: [Easy Cardboard Circle Weaving for Kids](#)

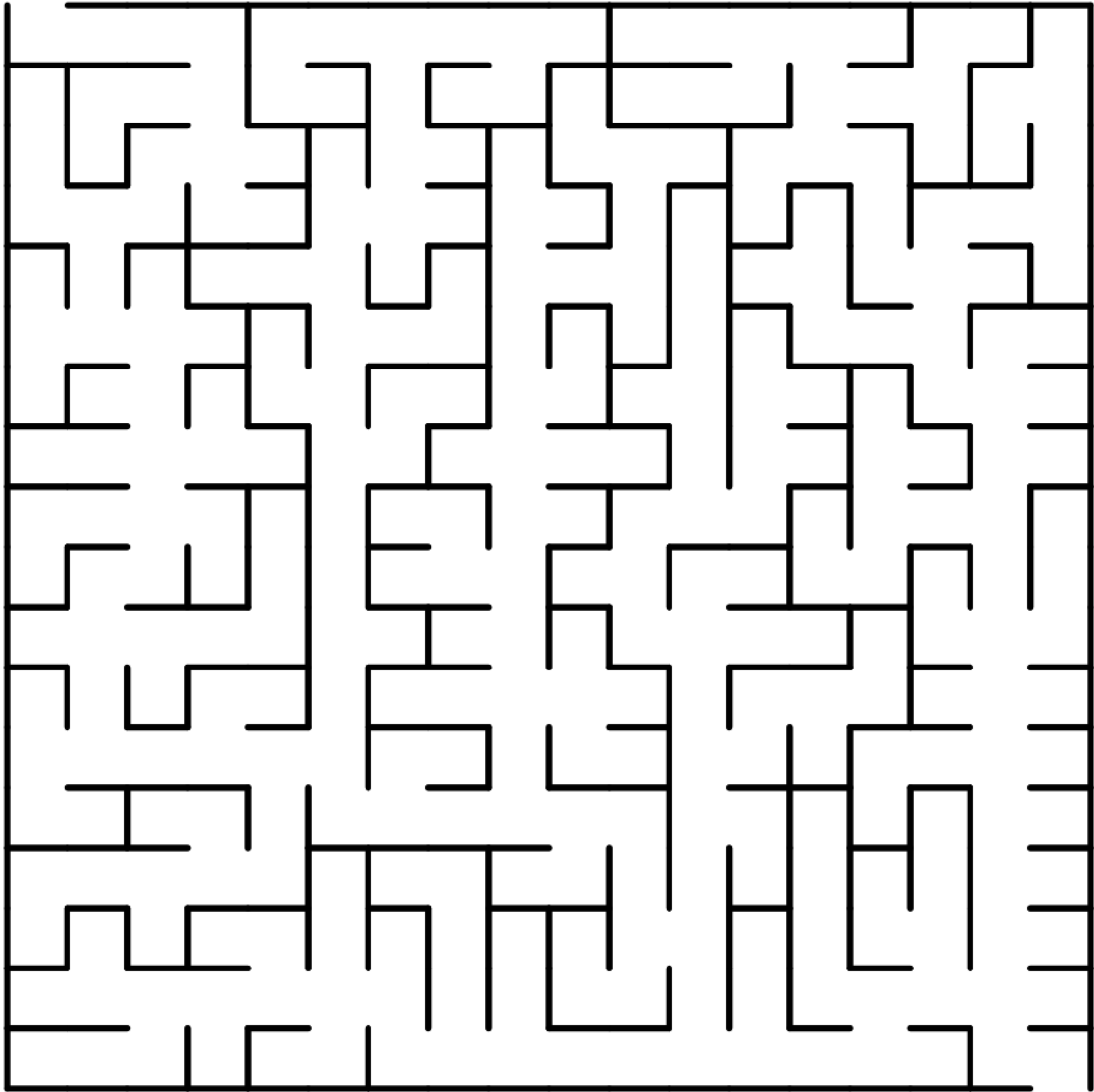
Mazes:

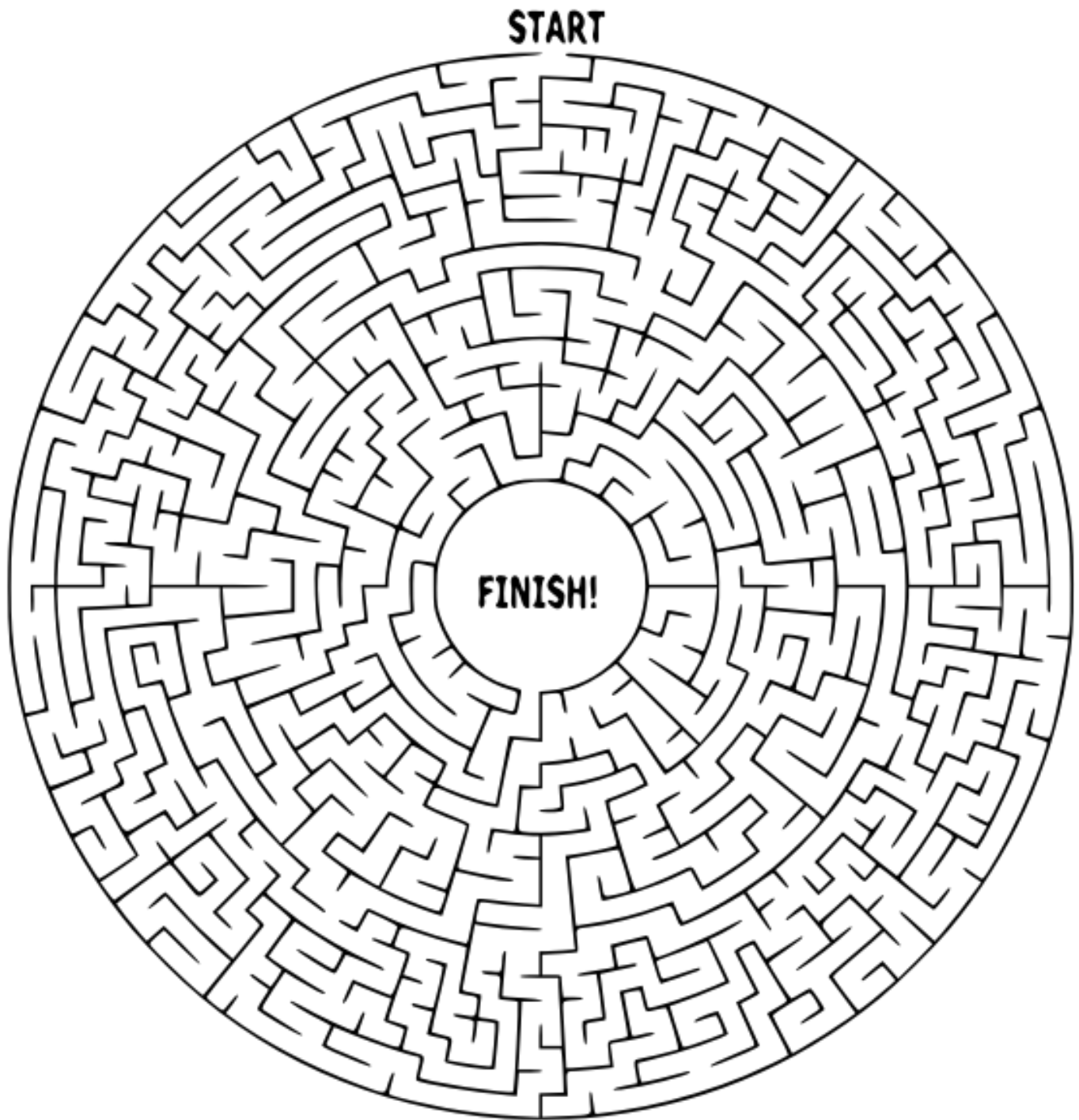
Moses Maze

Help Pharaoh's daughter find baby Moses.



Moses maze: [DLTK's Bible Activities for Kids mazes Moses Maze](#)



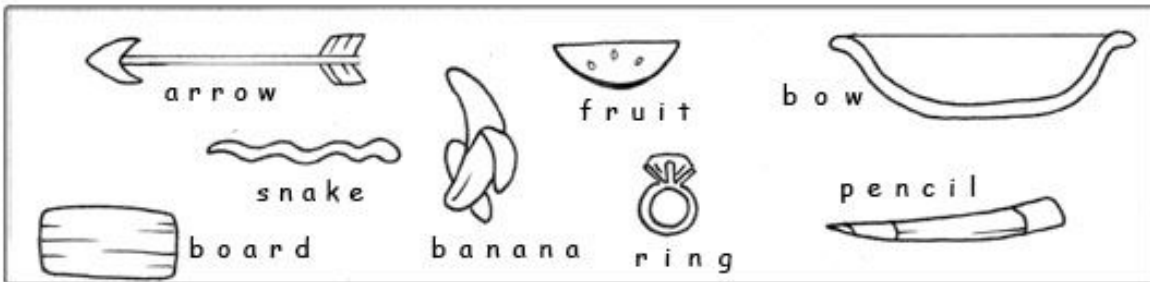


More Mazes:

[Printable Mazes for Kids](#)

[Bible Maze Activity Sheet - Baby Moses](#)

Other Activities:



Collection of hidden pictures puzzles (includes online games): [Free, Printable Hidden Picture Puzzles for Kids](#)

Word searches: [FREE Printable Word Search Puzzles](#)

Moses Spot the Difference: [God Protected Baby Moses Spot the Differences | Find the Differences Bible Activity](#)

Moses hidden picture

<https://www.freeprintable.com/print/free-printable-brain-teasers/baby-moses-hidden-puzzle>

Moses activity pack: [Baby Moses Activities for PreK & Early Elementary – Mary Martha Mama](#)

Recipes for Day 2

Milkshake Recipe: [Easy Milkshake Recipe - How to Make Milkshake](#)

Ingredients:

- 4 large scoops (about 1 1/2 c.) vanilla ice cream
- 1/4 c. milk
- Whipped topping, for garnish
- Sprinkles, for garnish
- Maraschino cherry, for garnish

Instructions:

In a blender, blend together ice cream and milk.

Pour into a glass and garnish with whipped topping, sprinkles, and a cherry.

Blue Gelatin (from box or homemade)

[Kristoff Ice Blocks - Jello Jigglers - Frozen Party Foods](#) Follow this recipe or the directions on a jello box, then cut into fish shapes once set!

Another homemade option using pureed fruit, 3T of gelatin and honey.

[Mar 15 PROTEIN GUMMIES: Only 3 Ingredients!](#)

Fish Bowl Gelatin [Ocean Cups](#)

Pigs in a Blanket

Roll a hot dog, perhaps with cheese, in crescent roll dough. Lightly brush with egg wash. Bake in 375 oven for 12-15 minutes.

Two example recipes found on these sites.

[Pigs in a Blanket Recipe](#)

[Easy Pigs in a Blanket + Mini Pigs in a Blanket Recipe \(+VIDEO\)](#)

Day 3 Activities

Art forms/manikin

[Wood Manikin](#)



Human body facts kids: [15 Facts About The Human Body!](#)

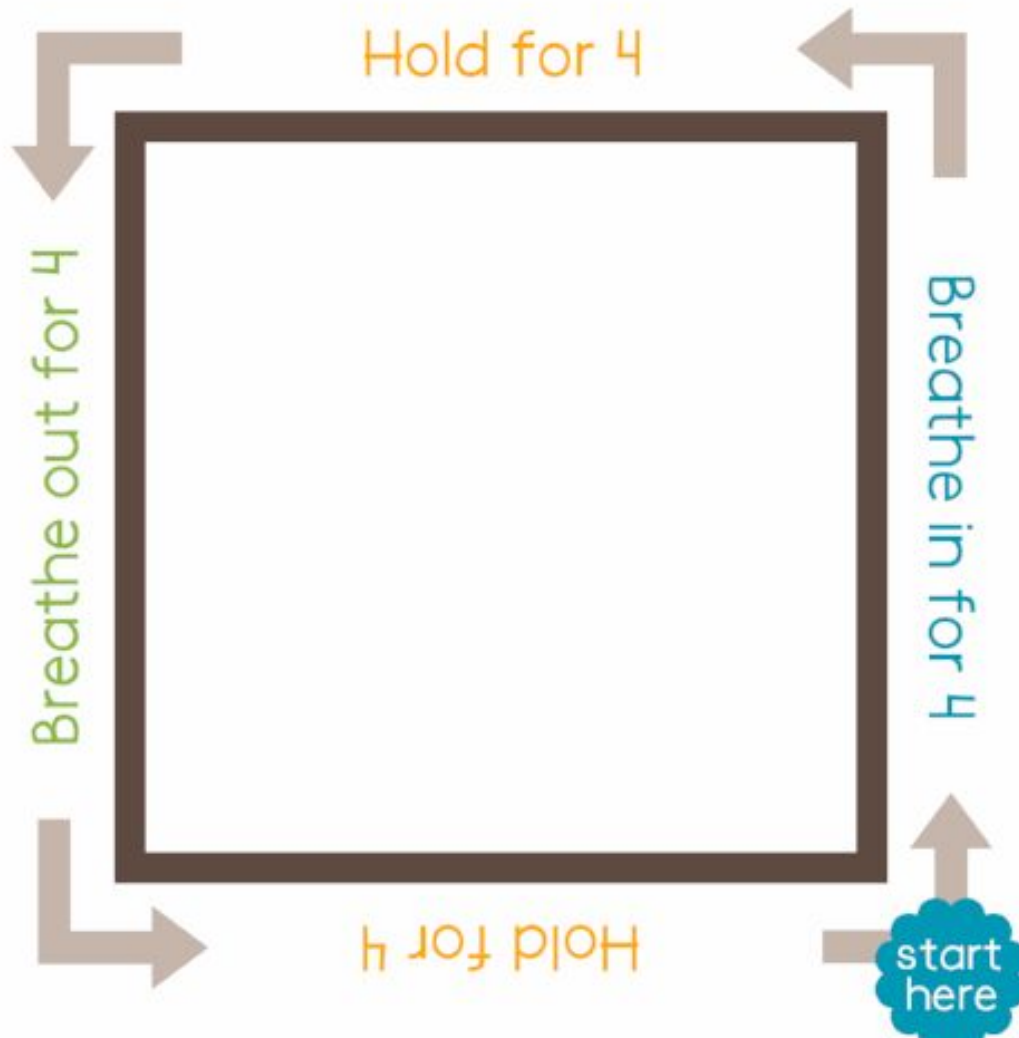
Body facts teen/adult: [The Human Body: Anatomy, Facts & Functions](#)

Breathing exercises

MANY examples for all ages here: [Deep Breathing Exercises for Kids](#)

SQUARE BREATHING

- Start at the bottom right of the square
- Breathe in for four counts as you trace the first side of the square
- Hold your breath for four counts as you trace the second side of the square
- Breathe out for four counts as you trace the third side of the square
- Hold your breath for four counts as you trace the final side of the square
- You just completed one deep breath!



Little kids breathing exercises found here:

[Take a Breath: 5 Deep Breathing Exercises that Help Kids Get Calm](#)

The Flower Breath: Imagine smelling a flower. Breathe in through your nose, out through your mouth.

The Bunny Breath: Take three quick sniffs through the nose and one long exhale through the nose. (As he starts to get the hang of it, have your little bunny focus on making the exhale slower and slower.)

The Snake Breath: Inhale slowly through the nose and breathe out through the mouth with a long, slow hissing sound.

Blow Out the Candle: Imagine a birthday candle. Take in a deep breath through the nose and then exhale through the mouth to blow out the candle.

Smell the Rose/Blow Out the Candle: Combine the Flower Breath (on the inhale) with the Blow Out the Candle Breath (on the exhale), holding up your pointer finger to your nose as “you smell the rose,” and drop your finger to your mouth as you “blow out the candle.”

See more little kid exercises here: [» Five Fun Breathing Exercises For KidsCosmic Kids Yoga](#)

Breathing exercises for older kids/adults:

[Try This! Mindful Breathing](#)

[A Mindful Breath-Counting Practice for Teens and Tweens](#)

Headbandz directions: [Make your Own Hedbandz Game at Home](#)

- Either write words or draw pictures on small cards.
- Place each card underneath the headband (or taped to forehead or taped on back).
- Each person takes a turn asking random questions about “who they are” or “what they are”. For example, each person may ask “am I a pet” or “Do I fly” maybe even “do I have four legs”. The questions are meant for them to use deductive reasoning skills to come to the conclusion with what is on their card.
- Play continues like this with each person taking a turn until each person correctly states what they are.

Cotton pad art:

[Cotton Pad Art Activity for Toddlers and Preschoolers](#)