

STORY 1: COURAGE

At one point in history, God's people, the Israelites, were living in Egypt. Because they had significantly grown in number, the king of Egypt, Pharaoh, got scared. He told the Egyptians, "There are too many of those Israelites in our country, and they are becoming more powerful than we are. If we don't outsmart them, their families will keep growing larger. And if our country goes to war, they could easily fight on the side of our enemies and escape from Egypt." So the Egyptians put slave masters over them to oppress them with hard labor building cities for Pharaoh.

But the more the Egyptians oppressed the Hebrews, the more they multiplied and spread. Because of this, the Egyptians hated them worse than before and made them work so hard that their lives were absolutely miserable.

Finally, the Pharaoh called in two women named Shiphrah and Puah, who were midwives, and he told them, "If a Hebrew woman gives birth to a girl, let the child live. If the baby is a boy, kill him!"

Shiphrah and Puah listened carefully to the words of Pharaoh but they feared God more than Pharaoh. So they did not do what the king told them to do. They let the boy babies live.

Now when the king heard what was happening, that the boy babies were allowed to live, he called the midwives to him again and asked them: "Why have you disobeyed me? Why have you let the boy babies live?"

Cleverly the midwives answered Pharaoh, "Why, Hebrew women are not at all like the Egyptian women. They are strong and give birth quickly, even before the midwife arrives!"

So God blessed Shiphrah and Puah because they truly respected Him and did what was right. And God gave the midwives families of their own.

God continued to bless the Hebrew people and they became even more numerous.