The Hebrew people had become slaves in Egypt. They were cruelly treated and had to do hard back-breaking work, making bricks. Pharaoh the king gave orders to kill all the baby boys born to the Hebrew families.

Amram and Jochebed lived in Egypt with their son Aaron and daughter Miriam. A baby boy was born to that Hebrew family. His mother was able to hide him for three months but as he grew older it became difficult to keep him quiet.

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Jochebed made a basket of bulrushes which she covered with tar to keep it water-tight. She placed her baby in the basket and floated it in the reeds by the banks of the River Nile. Big sister Miriam watched to see what would happen.

Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river to bathe. She noticed the basket among the reeds and ordered her maid to fetch it. She took pity on the baby and decided to adopt him. She called him Moses which means 'drawn out of the water'.

Miriam stepped up to offer to find a nurse for the princess and so Jochebed was given that job and was able to look after her baby openly.