

Minor Characters In Major Roles Lesson 2 – Jochebed

“... a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.”

Proverbs 31:30

“Lift up your hands toward Him for the life of your little ones...”

Lamentations 2:19

- Visitors, prayer requests, prayer
- Again, pass out Handout #1: “Major Roles for Christians Today”
- Emphasize **recognizing, developing, and using** our Christian characteristics

Q: Were you born at home?

Acts and Facts

- “My brother is my husband’s father”
- “Nadab and Abihu are two of my grandchildren”
- “If you look hard enough, you can see me in the ‘Examples of Faith’ of Hebrews 11”
- “I agree with Peter: ‘*We must obey God rather than men*’”
- “Of all the babies thrown into the Nile, mine was the only one brought back out.”

Q: What do you think Jochebed looked like?

A: Young, undernourished, worn, haggard. (FYI, I always picture a Golda Meir-type woman)

The Children of Jochebed

1. Miriam

- a. First child of Amram and Jochebed
- b. A **clever girl** on the banks of the Nile (more on this later)
- c. As a **poetess** and **prophetess** at the Red Sea
 - i. God destroys Pharaoh’s army; Miriam sings song of praise <Read Ex 15:19-21>
- d. As a **nationalist** (not a romantic—no mention of marriage or courtship)
- e. As a **jealous sister** in the wilderness <Read Num 12:1-2>
 - i. Didn’t like Moses’ Ethiopian wife (nationalism?)
 - ii. Joined with Aaron and **spoke against Moses** (jealousy?)
 - iii. God defended Moses! <Read Num 12:6-8>
 - iv. After God left, Miriam was **leprous**
 - v. Aaron asks Moses to **forgive** them; Moses asks God to **heal** Miriam
 - vi. God makes Miriam pay a price <Read Num 12:14-15>

2. Aaron

- a. Second child, born about seven years after Miriam
- b. **Eloquent, powerful speaker**—Chosen by God to speak for Moses (“*I have never been eloquent... but slow of speech and slow of tongue*” Ex 4:10)
- c. The **golden calf** <Read Ex 32:1-5>
 - i. Moses up on Mount Horeb (a.k.a. Mt. Sinai) 40 days, nights
 - ii. Aaron listens to **murmuring**, builds a **golden idol**
 - iii. God tells Moses what’s going on below, says He will **destroy** the people
 - iv. Moses **entreats** God to change his mind, goes down to “cleans house”

- v. Aaron was **clearly to blame** (Moses' recount of this event in Deut 9; see v. 20)
 - d. First **high priest** of Israel (see Lev 8)
 - e. Excluded, along with Moses, from the **promised land** (Num 20:12)
3. Moses
- a. Third child, born about three years after Aaron
 - b. 40 years in the **palace** of Pharaoh
 - c. 40 years in the **desert** of Midian
 - d. 40 years in the **wilderness**, leading God's people to the promised land
 - e. The circumstances of his birth:
 - i. Israel in **Egyptian bondage**; outnumber their captors!
 - ii. Egyptians **fear** Israel will join with Egypt's enemies
 - iii. The solution: **kill** all male Hebrew babies <Read Exodus 1:22>
 - iv. In the middle of all this, Moses is born...

Jochebed as a Mother for God

1. <Read Ex 2:1-2>
 - a. **Every mother** thinks her child is **beautiful**
 - b. She saw he was a **Godly child** (Ex 2:2, Acts 7:20, Heb 11:23)
 - c. Said another way, he was "fair to God" (otherworldly, angelic)
 - d. <Show **picture** of Jared's first bath>
2. Hebrews 11:23 gives more information... parents not afraid <Read Heb 11:23>
3. Jochebed's plan to save the child <Read Ex 2:3-4>
 - a. Build a small **ark**, but baby into the **reeds** of the Nile
 - b. Pharaoh's daughter finds the child, has **pity** on his crying, decides to **keep him**
 - c. Miriam's **marvelous intervention** <Read Ex 2:7-8>
 - d. Jochebed is allowed to care for Moses <Read Ex 2:9-10>
4. Not fear but **faith** that drove Jochebed ("*Faith is never foolish*")
5. Thrice blessed!
 - a. The baby is allowed to **live** (Moses is blessed)
 - b. Money for good **food** (the family is blessed)
 - c. Time to **prepare** him... (Israel/mankind is blessed)
6. Thus begins the **most important time** in Moses' life...

Jochebed as a Bridge to Moses

1. Egypt: A **powerful, sinful, heathen, idolatrous, technological nation**, *grooming Moses to be a leader and a prince!*
2. Jochebed: A **weak, small, undernourished, female slave**, faithfully teaching Moses the eternal, spiritual ways of Jehovah God
3. She was **the only one** who could give Moses the necessary teaching and instruction!
4. She became the **bridge** God needed to reach Moses
5. She had to **counteract** all the **evil influence** of Egypt in a short amount of time
 - a. <Read Acts 7:22>
 - b. Moses would be schooled at the **best university** ("The Temple of the Sun")
 - i. Chemistry, embalming, architecture, art, astronomy, mathematics, literature
 - ii. Power, leadership, authority, privilege
 - c. She had **only a few years** to plant the seeds of righteousness in young Moses
6. It took 40 years for Moses came to his senses and do the right thing <Read Heb 11:24-26>

Jochebed as a faithful winner

1. Moses still **wasn't ready**, and had to spend the next 40 years in the desert
 - a. Jochebed almost certainly **died** before Moses returned to lead the people
2. Rear your children “in the **fear and admonition** of the Lord” and you, too, will **succeed**
 - a. Although you **may not live to see it!**
3. It was Jochebed who planted the **seeds of faith** in Moses <**Read Heb 11:27-28**>
4. She taught him to be **God's man**
 - a. Moses wrote “*You shall have no other gods before me*” (Ex 20:3)—he learned this **first** at his **mother's knee!**
5. God puts us in **unique positions** to **make an eternal difference!**

Q: What do you think about when you reflect on Jochebed's faith in God?

A: She chose to obey God rather than men (remember Peter and the Sanhedrin—Acts 5:29)

A: “...*but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord*” (Joshua 24:15)

Q: How can we get strong, faithful mothers today?

A: <**Read Titus 2:3-5**> Is this an answer?

A: Moms in Touch International (MITI) flyer

Characteristics of Jochebed

1. Devout
2. Feared God, not men
3. Faithful