

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. [Exodus 2:1-4, NIV]

What was Moses' Mother's Name?

The scripture above begins the story of Moses' birth told in Exodus 2:1-10, and his mother's efforts to save his life. I strongly recommend you have a careful read of those 10 verses for it tells a fascinating story and reveals much about "mothering." By the way, Jochebed, was the mother's name as recorded in the Torah - we see her name in Exodus 6:20 and again in Numbers 26:59.



I struggle with what to preach on Mother's Day. The main reason is that peoples' experiences with mothers and the idea of motherhood vary greatly. Not all memories of motherhood come from a Hallmark greeting card. What it means "to mother" or "to be a mother" can be different for everyone. That being said, we can turn to the Old Testament and the remarkable story of Jochebed and the birth of Moses for valuable lessons despite our human shortcomings:

1. God is always at work, even when we can't see it. Jochebed's decision to place her infant son Moses in a basket and set him adrift on the Nile River may have seemed like a desperate and risky move, but it was also an act of faith.
2. Courage and faith go hand in hand. Jochebed's decision to hide Moses for three months after he was born and later to set him adrift on the Nile took great courage. She knew that she was risking her own life and the life of her child, but she also knew God was with her and His plans were greater than her fears.
3. God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Jochebed was a humble woman, but God used her in extraordinary ways. She raised three important leaders in the history of the Israelites: Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

A Prayer for Mother's Day

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the love and nurturing care of mothers. We thank you for their tireless efforts for their children and families and for their support and encouragement. We pray for mothers everywhere, that they may be strengthened and encouraged in their journey of love and sacrifice. Grant them wisdom, patience, and compassion as they care for their children, and fill them with your grace and peace. May they know the depth of their worth and value, and may they be celebrated and honored for all that they do. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who was nurtured and cared for by his own mother, Mary. Amen.

Prayer box: let us pray for healing and comfort – Andy C, Robin, Lynn, Bill, Mark, Joyce, and Andy P; let us pray for victims of violence; let us pray for struggling relationships. Lord, hear our prayer!