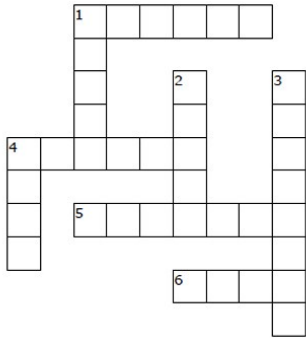


A Baby by the River

When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water." Exodus 2:3 (NIV)
Puzzle is based on Exodus 2:1-10



ACROSS

1. A woman who has given birth to a child
4. A container that is usually woven of straw and has handles
5. A king of Egypt
6. The world's longest river

DOWN

1. An Old Testament Hebrew prophet
2. A clear, colorless, odorless, tasteless liquid (H2O)
3. A female human offspring
4. A very young child (up to 1 year old)



3 Anecdotes



A teacher gave her class of second graders a lesson on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a written test, she included this question: My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I pick up things. What am I? When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the word Mother.



A teacher asked a boy this question: Suppose your mother baked a pie and there were seven of you-- your parents and five children. What part of the pie would you get? A sixth, replied the boy. I'm afraid you don't know your fractions, said the teacher, Remember, there are seven of you. Yes, teacher, said the boy, but you don't know my mother. Mother would say she didn't want any pie.



A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday school presentation. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, I am the light of the world. The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud clear voice said, My mother is the light of the world.

May God's blessing surround you each day.

As we trust in and walk in His way;

May His presence within,

Guard and keep us from sin;

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

**MINSTER BETHEL
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

22/03/2020

Mothering Sunday



Happy Mother's Day

"May your father and mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful!"

Proverbs 23:25

Good morning and welcome to this unprecedented church service.

I'd like to start by saying happy mother's day to all of you and as you all know this is for all mothers in any forms; birth mums, adoptive mums, foster mums, dads that are mums, grandmothers, grandfathers, step mums, aunts. We celebrate mums in their widest form.

The children at brigade on Monday learnt this song and the Makaton signs (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=zpZkY47-cVI&feature=emb_logo):

*For all those times you stood by me
For all the truth that you made me see
For all the joy you brought to my life
For all the wrong that you made right
For every dream you made come true
For all the love I found in you
I'll be forever thankful
You're the one who held me up
Never let me fall
You're the one who saw me through through it all*

*You were my strength when I was weak
You were my voice when I couldn't speak
You were my eyes when I couldn't see
You saw the best there was in me
Lifted me up when I couldn't reach
You gave me faith 'cause you believed
I'm everything I am
Because you loved me*

So if you're at home with a brigade child ask them to show you! If not read the words and reflect on what they mean to you.

Our reading/story today is taken from Exodus 1:22-2:10 (<http://bitly.ws/84Qt>):

MOSES

Then Pharaoh gave an order to all of his people. He said, "You must throw every baby boy into the Nile River. But let every baby girl live."

A man and a woman from the tribe of Levi got married. She became pregnant and had a son by him. She saw that her baby was a fine child. So she hid him for three months.

After that, she couldn't hide him any longer. So she got a basket that was made out of the stems of tall grass. She coated it with tar. Then she placed the child in it. She put the basket in the tall grass that grew along the bank of the Nile River. The child's sister wasn't very far away. She wanted to see what would happen to him.

Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile River to take a bath. Her attendants were walking along the bank of the river. She saw the basket in the tall grass. So she sent her female slave to get it.

When she opened it, she saw the baby. He was crying. She felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

Then his sister spoke to Pharaoh's daughter. She asked, "Do you want me to go and get one of the Hebrew women? She could nurse the baby for you."

"Yes. Go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother.

Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby. Nurse him for me. I'll pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him.



When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter. And he became her son. She named him Moses. She said, "I pulled him out of the water."

Moses we may think is unlucky, because he was a boy at a time when all boys had been sent to be killed. However God gave Moses two Mother's who both cared for him. God knew he needed the two in order to develop the skills he would require in the future to lead his people. At this time we remember God will provide us with the skills required to enable us to face this strange and all situations.

We want to thank God as we thanks all our mothers today for looking after us and caring for us.

Let us Pray:

Lord, Thank you for all mothers.

For the new ones, who endure sleepless nights with infants in arms.

For the busy ones, who juggle the pressures of home and family life.

For the steadfast ones, who nurture and care for our special vulnerable children.

For the patient ones, who always seek to forgive and engage with their pre-teens.

For the persistent ones, who cleverly find new ways to connect with their mini-adults.

For the mother aunts, who step in to cradle and care for nieces and nephews.

For all grandmas, who love and support their precious grandchildren.

For the foster mums that are called to gather and cover the fragile ones.

For the Sunday mums who care for our children and lead them in faith.

For the mums who give far beyond their own resources, who overcome disability to cherish and love.

Amen

