

# Serving Siblings

By Lee Yates



Every sibling relationship is unique. Scripture has some famous siblings. By taking a look at other sibling relationships, we can find ways to talk about our own families. We also can find ways to care for one another.

## For

Teen Family

## Season

Spring

## Needed

Bible



by [tamckile](#)

## Prepare in Advance

Mark your Bible at: Exodus 2:1-10; Exodus 4:10-17; Exodus 15:20-21; Numbers 12:1-15.

## Activity Plan

1. Open in prayer. Here are some words if you need them.

*God, thank you for the blessing of family. Help us to move past rivalry and the tensions of family life to better care for one another. Amen.*

2. For family members who have siblings, ask them to tell one important thing a sibling has done for them and a time they have been frustrated with a sibling. For family members who are only children, ask them to tell about a time they wished they had a sibling and a time they were glad they had no siblings.
3. Ask family members to take turns reading aloud Exodus 2:1-10; Exodus 4:10-17; Exodus 15: 20-21; and Numbers 12:1-15 from your Bible or the text at the end of this activity. Discuss these stories about Moses, Aaron, and Miriam:
  - How were Moses, Aaron, and Miriam related to each other?
  - To what extent are your own experiences as siblings reflected in the interactions of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam?
  - Miriam protected Moses when he was young, Aaron spoke for Moses when he was scared, and both took roles in leadership to support Moses and the community. Discuss how you support your siblings and how you might support them better in the future. What hurts or challenges keep you from better relationships with each other?
4. Choose an act of service that you can perform for a sibling or an act of service you and a sibling can do together. Plan it and do it! It can be something big or something simple. Just make sure to do it. (Those who have no siblings may choose an act of service for another family member.)
5. Close in prayer. Here are some words if you need them.

*God, help us to serve each other, following the examples of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. Forgive us when we argue and fight. Remind us we will always be family. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

6. Variation: Read about the Jewish community's teaching about [Miriam](#) and [Aaron](#).



### **Exodus 2:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup> The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. <sup>3</sup> When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. <sup>4</sup> And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. <sup>5</sup> Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. <sup>6</sup> When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." <sup>7</sup> Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" <sup>8</sup> And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup> And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. <sup>10</sup> When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

### **Exodus 4:10-17**

<sup>10</sup> But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." <sup>11</sup> Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?" <sup>12</sup> Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." <sup>13</sup> But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." <sup>14</sup> Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. <sup>15</sup> You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. <sup>16</sup> He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. <sup>17</sup> And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs."

### **Exodus 15:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. <sup>21</sup> And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."

### **Numbers 12:1-15**

<sup>1</sup> Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. <sup>2</sup> And they said, "Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?" And the Lord heard it. <sup>3</sup> Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth. <sup>4</sup> And suddenly the Lord said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting." And the three of them came out. <sup>5</sup> And the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. <sup>6</sup> And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. <sup>7</sup> Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. <sup>8</sup> With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" <sup>9</sup> And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them, and he departed.

<sup>10</sup> When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous. <sup>11</sup> And Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned. <sup>12</sup> Let her not be as one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother's womb." <sup>13</sup> And Moses cried to the Lord, "O God, please heal her—please." <sup>14</sup> But the Lord said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut outside the camp seven days, and after that she may be brought in again." <sup>15</sup> So Miriam was shut outside the camp seven days, and the people did not set out on the march till Miriam was brought in again.

