

THE BOOK OF EXODUS

There are 45 characters so add as many cast as you'd like, but it's written to be played by 7 actors. There are specifically 7 female roles and 11 male roles, the others can be either. There are also 4 roles for kids if you have them, otherwise the adult actors will just ACT like children.

(Start the show with a line of names across the stage somehow – the 12 tribes of Israel. Either have people hold them or have them on some sort of stand. As Jesus starts talking, he the name of each person. Or if they're being held by individual people, that person takes the sign and walks away. The king stands over to the side. The set is Egypt)

EXODUS 1

Jesus (single light on Jesus): Hello. My name is Jesus and I'm here to tell you the story of Exodus. Some of you might be wondering why I'm the one narrating. You'll see. (*Lights up on the names or the people holding the names*) We begin with the names of the people who were in Egypt, with Joseph, a.k.a. his brothers. Eventually Joseph and his brothers and his brothers, children and grandchildren died. Now the Israelites were highly favored by God, and therefore they were fruitful and multiplied. But one day a new king took over (a new actor taps, the old King on the shoulder, the old king looks at him, takes off his crown and hands it to the new king and then exits.) and this king did not know Joseph or any of the good things Joseph did for the king. All he saw was that the Israelites were growing in numbers. SCENE: GO!

King (to his servant): look at them. How many are there?? If we're not careful, they're going to side with our enemies and rise up and fight against us. (*If the names were on a stand, a crew member will come on and take them away at this point*)

King's Servant (looking out at the audience, maybe even counting them): Oh wow. You're right. What should we do?

King: We have to be smart about this. We have to be very careful how we play this.

(*the king and his servant, both pace in opposite directions, and continue to cross each other, and occasionally bump into each other*)

King: I've got it! We're gonna make them work really hard and be really mean.

King's Servant (*With earnest*): Excellent idea. If we make them work really hard and are really mean, then surely they won't turn against us and fight with our enemies. Plus they won't have time to... well... you know... procreate and make more of them.

King: Right! So make it so, Number 1.

(*King's servant and the king stand and watch a minute. They both slowly tilt their heads the same direction.*)

King's Servant: is it me or does it seem like the harder you are on them, the more they multiply?

King: I was just noticing the same thing. You know what, Call the Midwives!

King's Servant: Calling the Midwives!

(*The midwives enter with heads bowed.*)

Puah: You called for us?

King: Yes. I know you're probably not gonna like this, but I am your king so you have to do what I tell you to.

(*the women look at each other nervously.*)

Shiphrah: Ok?

King: here's what I need you to do, when you are helping the Israelite women give birth, you are to look at the baby when it's born. If it's a girl, you may hand it to the mother and congratulate her. If it's a boy, you must kill it.

Puah and Shiphrah: What?

King: What's confusing? Girl "Yay! (*he does a happy dance*) Boy (*he makes a slicing motion across this throat*)? Got it?

Puah and Shiphrah: Yes, King.

King: Great! Now I'm off to play a round of golf. Have a good day.

(*the two women are left speechless*)

Puah: What do we do?

Shiphrah: he's the king. We have to obey him, right?

Puah: Right. Of course.

Shiphrah: But...

Puah (hopeful): But??

Shiphrah: Well, let's just say we take our time getting to the moms, and the babies are in already born and they've already taken it away. Well that can't possibly be our faults, right?

Puah: but then we'd be leaving the women alone to have their babies.

Shiphrah: Puah! We aren't actually going to take our time getting to them, we're just going to tell the king that. P: Ooooh.

Shiphrah: you make the call. We could be risking our lives doing this.

Puah: There is no question. If we lose our lives, so be it. God before king.

Shiphrah: Good. Then we are in agreement.

Israelite: Midwives! Come quick. My wife is in labor.

(P and Shiphrah look at each other)

Shiphrah: Here goes nothing.

(They exit. The king and his servant enter)

King: It's been MONTHS since I gave those midwives strict instructions to get rid of all the baby boys. And yet everywhere I look- Israelite baby boys. Something isn't adding up. Get them back in here right now.

Kings. Servant: call the midwives!

Puah: you rang, your highness?

King: Perhaps you did not understand my orders.

Shiphrah: We understood it, King. Girls *(She does the same happy dance)*

Puah: Boys *(Does the throat motion)*

Shiphrah: But the Israelite women are so strong that they have the babies before we can even get there.

Puah: And they hide them from us.

King: I see what you're saying. That can't really be helped. Well, you may go. You did your best.

Jesus: Because the midwives honored God, God honored them. And they were blessed with household of their own. (two other actors bring a baby to each woman. The women smile and look up at God and then exit in opposite directions, leaving the King centerstage.)

King Servant: Now what?

King: Shhhh... I'm thinking. (pause) I've got it. Since I can't depend on the midwives, I will depend on my people. Hear ye hear ye from now on if you see an Israelite baby boy, you are instructed to take it from the mother and do away with it.

Off Stage Voice: How are we to do away with them?

King: Good grief, do I have to think of everything? I don't know. Throw it in the river, I guess.

EXODUS 2

Jesus: From there, the Bible skips right to the birth of Moses. We don't know how long that lasted, we don't know how many little boys were thrown into the river. But we do know that Moses's mother hid her boy for three months *(Moses's mother comes on stage with a baby)* until she could no longer hide him.

((This action happens under Jesus' next line. Eve/Jochebed enters, miming holding a baby. Ruth/Miriam enters. Daughter and Servant enter on the opposite stage. Jochebed kisses the pretend baby and then places it down in the river.)) That's Moses' mother and that's his sister. Over there we have Pharaoh's Daughter and her servant, out for a morning bath.

Miriam: Mama, what are you going to do?

Mother: I'm going to save my boy.

Miriam: by putting him in the river where all the other babies died? How is that going to save him?

Mother: I don't know. But look at this boy. He's beautiful. He is destined for greatness; I just know it. Besides, if I do nothing, the people will take him from me and throw him in there anyway. At least this way he'll have something holding him on the water. I have to trust.

Miriam: But what's going to happen to him?

Mother: I don't know, honey. That's where the trust part comes in.

Miriam: I'll watch him, mama. I'll tell you what happens.