

WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

MIRIAM

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

Lesson 8 • November 14, 2012

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Shiphrah, Puah, and Jochebed** has been helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read Exodus 2

2. Who was Miriam, and what was her role in **V1-10**? (See **Numbers 26:59**)
3. Even as a young girl, what character traits were present in Miriam?
4. What fears might Miriam have had as she took on this task?
5. a) In your opinion, how could this have been a faith-building experience for her at such a young age?
b) Describe a faith-building experience you had as a youth (or even a more recent one).
c) In what current situation do you need to step out courageously with that experience in mind?
6. Briefly summarize what happened to Moses in **V11-25**.

SECTION II: Read Exodus 15

For background: From **Exodus 3-14**, God sent Moses to deliver the Israelites from their slavery and lead them out of Egypt through the amazing miracles of the 10 plagues and the Red Sea crossing. Miriam and Moses sang this song of praise to God for those miracles in **V1-21**.

7. a) List the many ways God is worshipped and described in this song.
- b) Comment on how praising God for their present victories gave them confidence for future victories in **V13-17**. (Key in on what God “will” do.)
8. What favorite verse or phrase will you remember as you face overwhelming circumstances?
9. Write your own personal “song” that praises Him in or even before you see the victory.
10. a) Read **V20-21** together with **Micah 6:4**. What are Miriam’s gifts?
- b) What impresses you about how she used her gifts?
11. Miriam had a special impact as a leader of the Israelite women. Share about the impact women leaders have had in your life.
12. Read **V22-26**. From **V26**, list the four parts to the LORD’s instruction and His promise to the Israelites.

SECTION III: Read Numbers 12:1-16

13. Reread **Exodus 2:21-22**. What did Miriam and Aaron do according to **Numbers 12:1-2** and why?

14. From **V3-9**, how does the LORD respond and why?

15. Remembering Miriam's gifts and the LORD's instruction in **Exodus 15:26...**

a) Describe the consequences of her sin in **Numbers 12:10**.

b) Knowing God is just, why do you think Aaron didn't receive the same consequences?

16. a) How did Aaron and Moses respond?

b) How did the LORD show Miriam grace, and yet what ripple effects remained (**V13-15**)?

17. Given that nothing more is said about Miriam until her death in **Numbers 20:1**, what lessons do you learn from her life:

a) from "the good"?

b) from "the bad, and the ugly"?

18. Form a prayer based on one of your answers in **Question 17**.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In Miriam's story, we've seen how rivalry and jealousy can truly undermine Godly leadership. What do you learn from the following examples?

Mark 10:35-45 _____

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 3:1-9 _____

2. What are sobering realities about leadership roles within the church?

1 Timothy 5:19-20 _____

James 3:1 _____

3. Write a truth about how we are to respond to Godly church leadership from **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** and **Hebrews 13:17**.

4. Suggested Memory Verse: **Hebrews 13:17**

