FOREMOTHER SHIPHRAH & PUAH

This activity is designed for our young daughters to learn about our courageous foremothers, Shiphrah and Puah, concerning the wonderful deeds that they accomplished to save the male children of our nation.

Lesson Objectives:
At the end of the lesson, our young daughters will be able to answer the following questions about our foremothers Shiphrah and Puah:
1. Who were Shiphrah and Puah?
2. What did they do for our nation?
3. What did you learn about Shiphrah and Puah, that you can apply in your life today?

Teach:
Shiphrah and Puah were Israelite midwives in the time of the Egyptian captivity. Specifically, when Israel was growing in population. This led to the Pharaoh at that time, to want to kill all the male children, to prevent a saviour (the Messiah) from being raised up.

Exodus 1:8-16

[8] Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.
[9] And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we:
[10] Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.
[11] Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.
[12] But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.
[13] And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:
[14] And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in morter, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour.

[15] And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: [16] And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live.

These women feared the LORD greatly. Their job became a trial for them and the nation of Israel when the King of Egypt at that time charged them to kill the male sons.

Exodus 1:16-17 (KJVA 1611)
[16] And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. [17] But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men's children alive.

Question: Which other forefathers and foremothers saved our people through their actions?

Activity: Research the role of a midwife; including what it takes to become a midwife.

Shiphrah and Puah did not listen to Pharaoh. They were fearless and did not bow down to the heathen, to sin.

Exodus 1:17-19 (KJVA 1611)

[17] But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

[18] And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?

[19] And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them.

Questions:

- What do you think would've happened if Shiphrah and Puah followed the King's command?
- Can you bring this to modern times? Create a scenario that would fit today.

The LORD blessed the women for their great deeds; for having love for their people and saving the sons of Israel. The LORD blessed them with houses.

Exodus 1:20-21 (KJVA 1611)

[20] Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.

[21] And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.

Closing and review:

1. Who were Shiphrah and Puah?
2. What did they do for our nation?
3. What did you learn about Shiphrah and Puah, that you can apply in your life today?

End of class.