



The purpose of this column is to help you study the Bible on your own. You will find help in answering the questions as you look up the Bible references and think about them before writing your answers. Do not send your answers to us, as this column is not a correspondence course.

## LEARNING FROM WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

### Part 4

by Larry & Lois Ondrejck

We are encouraged to study Scripture: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). We are studying the lives of some Old Testament women. We began with Eve, "the mother of all living" (Gen. 3:20). Then we considered the lives of Rebekah and Rachel. This month we'll look at Miriam, the rescuer of Moses.

### MIRIAM

Have you ever worked hard only to get the "second place" award? God chose Miriam to be a leader – but not the leader *she* thought she'd be! Her story begins in Exodus.

1. The Hebrews were slaves in Egypt. Over the years they became more numerous than their masters, the Egyptians. How did Pharaoh plan to keep the Hebrews from multiplying? (Ex. 1:15-16) \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Why didn't that plan work? (Ex. 1:17-20) \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. What was Pharaoh's second plan? (Ex. 1:22) \_\_\_\_\_  
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It was at this time in history that Moses was born. When his parents could no longer hide him at home, they placed him in a basket along the bank of the Nile.

4. How did his sister rescue Moses from being killed? (Ex. 2:1-10)  
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5. How did this strategy play out? \_\_\_\_\_  
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His sister (identified as Miriam in Ex. 15:20) risked her life to save her younger brother's life. There is little said about her relationship with Moses while they were growing up together. But we know from Exodus 3-14 that God used Moses to deliver the Israelites from the Egyptians.

6. After crossing the Red Sea, Miriam is called the \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 15:20).
7. After Moses and the men sang their victory song, what did Miriam do? (Ex. 15:20-21) \_\_\_\_\_
8. In Micah 6:4 who are listed as Israel's leaders? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Beginning in Numbers 10:11, the people complained so much to Moses about their hardships that Moses didn't think he could carry their burdens himself. In Numbers 11:24 God put His Spirit on 70 elders who prophesied. In Numbers 11:29 Moses said, "I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets."

Even someone as godly as Miriam was not immune to spiritual pride. She might have viewed these additional leaders as a threat, while Moses saw them as a much needed asset. In Numbers 12:1 Miriam and Aaron began to criticize Moses because he had married a foreign woman. They also said, "Has the Lord spoken only through Moses. Hasn't He also spoken through us?"

9. In Numbers 12:4-10, how did God deal with this leadership conflict? (12:4) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (12:6-8) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (12:9-10) \_\_\_\_\_

God made plain that He had a more intimate relationship with Moses than with all others. Aaron and Miriam were rebuked by God for their jealousy. God does not want us to forget what happens when we become prideful. If we don't guard our hearts it's easy to criticize and have bad attitudes towards God's leaders.

10. Think of a time when wrong attitudes caused you to be critical. What was the outcome? \_\_\_\_\_  
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11. Miriam's sin was pride. How are you overcoming this sin in your life?  
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**GT**

*Next month we'll learn from the life of Hannah.*