

Catholic Identity Patch Program

WOMEN IN SCRIPTURE

Miriam

Miriam was the daughter of Amram and Jochebed, and the older sister of Moses and Aaron, all of whom were Levites. (Levites played an important role in Old Testament history.) Miriam was a prominent participant in the Exodus from Egypt as well as many of the key events of the Israelites' time in the Sinai after their escape from slavery. She was known as a prophetess.

We first read of Miriam in Exodus 2:3-10, when Moses' mother could hide the infant no longer, after the Pharaoh had ordered that all of the male Hebrew newborns were to be slaughtered. Miriam got a papyrus (a type of paper) basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the River Nile. Moses' sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies", she said. Then Miriam asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you." [Miriam had left her distant hiding place and ran right up to the princess; no one tried, or could, have stopped her.] "Yes, go", she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. Years later, at the time of the Exodus, after crossing the sea when Pharaoh's chariots were destroyed in the waters, Miriam had developed her leadership as a prophetess and leader of songs.

"Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, put a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam thanked them, thanks to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea" (Exodus 15:20).

Miriam died and was buried at a desert before the Israelites entered the promised land she along with her brothers Moses and Aaron did not cross the Jordan back then, but she will in due time. God does not forsake those who serve him well.



INSTRUCTIONS

To earn this patch, learn about Miriam. Complete one activity from each section. Although you may want to add this page to your Girl Scout or Camp Fire USA journal/scrapbook, you do not need to write out the answers. If you are working together as a group or troop, have discussions and/or group activities. If you are working individually, include your family. If you are an older girl or boy, learn about Miriam and teach younger children.

Once earned, Girl Scouts may place this patch on the back of the sash or vest.

Once you have learned about Miriam, your leader, advisor, or parent may order the patch for you by visiting www.nfcym.org and clicking the "SHOP" link at the top of the page to access the store.

Learn & Take Action

For All

Read about Miriam in the book of Exodus, either in your Bible or online, at www.usccb.org/bible/index.cfm. Answer the following questions:

- Who were the important people in Maryan's life?
- What does Maryan do as a young girl that was so special?
- Where in the Bible did you find information about Maryan?
- What can we learn about God by reading about Maryan?

Share what you learn with someone else.

Hospitality With a Smile

Miriam was a prophet. Look "into your future" and see if there's a way to help with the service program at your church, school, or in your community. Volunteer to help wherever you can.

Name It!

Names are important. Read more about Miriam.

Was she known by other names? What names?

Why was she given those names and what do those names mean?

Why Is It?

That Miriam is represented by:

- reeds
- tambourine

For Older Youth

Investigate and see what other information you can find about Maryan. This is Mary? Did she have children? What other information can you find?

Helping All Moms

All moms need help, but some need more help than others.

- Brainstorm some ways you can help me mom you know even your own man and do it.
- Perhaps volunteer for a period of time as a mother's helper.

Prayers For New Mothers

Miriam created a psalm that she sang and danced to with the other women when Pharaoh's chariots were tossed into the sea, a memorable moment during the Exodus.

- What special moments in your life have made you sing praise to God for something wonderful? Write a psalm you can sing or a prayer you can read explaining how you felt, just like Miriam did.
- Include this in your daily prayers for a short time.

Be Creative

Learn more about Miriam and create your own activity.

Catholic Identity Patch Program is a project of the
NCCGSCF & NFCYM



www.NCCGSCF.org

