

## THE MIDWIVES

Written by Ted Swartz

**Character:** Shiphrah

**Scripture text:** Exodus 1:15-21

**Props:** Note in Shiphrah's pocket, apron, towel

**Sound effects:** Either recorded or done vocally.

**Setting:** Doorway—not necessary to have actual door

**Length:** 4.5 Minutes

SHIPHRAH: Coming! I've got it!

*(Door slowly opens. SHIPHRAH appears wiping her hands on a towel.)*

SHIPHRAH: Yes, young man. Of course, come in, come in. Can I get you some tea? No? In a rush? What was it you wanted? Children? Of course dear, I know about children. Are you expecting? No, of course I mean your wife. Children are a blessing, aren't they? Have you retained a good midwife? I'm sure I can recommend a ... no? You're not expecting. Okay, slow down, son. No need to get excited.

*(A scream from off stage.)*

SHIPHRAH: Breathe, honey. Breathe!!! Isn't that a beautiful sound? It's the sound of life coming. It's part of what ties a woman to her children forever. Now then, you're here about a midwife, well I can certainly ... no? Not here about a midwife. What was it then?

The Hebrew babies? Oh yes ... yes, the Hebrew babies.

*(To the side.)*

No, I've got it sister. ... I said, I've got it.

*(Back to visitor.)*

SHIPHRAH: My sister, Puah. Now, you're here about a midwife? Just let me get something to write with ... No. No, we've established that haven't we? ... What was it then? ... Oh, the Hebrew babies.

*(Another scream from off stage.)*

Push!!! Push!! We're close, honey.

*(Back to the soldier.)*

Sometimes they want to turn back—you can't, gotta forge ahead. Forge a head, get it ... I'm sorry, that just popped out. ... Never mind. Now,

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you're here about a midwife, just let me get something to write ... no? The Hebrew babies ... I'm sorry? ... Is this a Hebrew baby? No, no. But those Hebrew boys ... the boys, yes ... yes we were supposed to ... wait a minute, I've got that right here.

*(Searches for the note)*

Right here ... right here ... we do the best we can son ... right here. *(Finds the note.)*

*(Another scream from off stage.)*

It's worse right before the glory, honey!!! Push!!!

*(Notices the note.)*

Thank you, son.

*(Folds up and puts the note away.)*

You know I don't read ... What was it you wanted? ... The Hebrew babies ... Didn't I have a note about that? ... How's that? In my ... well, what do you know? Let's see now ... Read it for me?

*(She hands the note to the implied soldier, listens ... repeats.)*

The Hebrew babies, we were ... supposed ... to ... kill them. Really? Why would we do that? Oh, imperial law. OK. You bet. Yes. Well, it's the darndest thing ... When we here, get word...

*(Again to the sister.)*

I said I've got it!! My sister, Puah ... Where was I? The Hebrew babies ... Oh, right. When we get word about a birth ... we of course get right over ... and it's the darndest thing ... when we get there ... all done ... they have already given birth. We think the Hebrew women have their children faster than Egyptian women. It must be in the hips. It's just ... whoosh ... whooop. All done. It's the darndest thing. Whoooooop. But we'll keep working at it ... We will. Got the word. *(Raising the note.)*

*(Starts to close the door.)*

You can count us. You bet. Thanks for coming.

*(This time we hear a baby cry.)*

There we go, that's what we like to hear...

THE END

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\*\*\*\*\* SCRIPT PREVIEW \*\*\*\*\*

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SCRIPT  
PREVIEW

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