

Joseph Has a Dream

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 12, ages 3-4

Lesson 12 Goal

- Your child will learn that Joseph had a dream telling him that Mary's baby would be Jesus, God's Son.

Key Points

- Joseph had a dream.
- An angel in Joseph's dream told him that Mary's baby was Jesus, God's Son.



Parent Reflection

Joseph was a carpenter from a small town. He was betrothed to a young woman he would certainly have regarded as very godly. (After all, God preserved her from Original Sin.) He was shocked at the news that his betrothed was pregnant. Since their relationship had been chaste, Joseph would have to have assumed Mary had been unfaithful to him (and to Jewish law) and had relations with another man. Rather than exposing her to shame (and possibly even stoning), he planned "to divorce her quietly." To marry her and claim the child would have been a lie, but to accuse her publicly would put the one he loved in danger. Faced with this dilemma, he decided to act both out of love for God and for Mary.

Then something amazing happens. In a dream, an angel appeared to Joseph and told him not to be afraid and that the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit. So Joseph decided to stay with Mary. But consider this: That couldn't have been easy, either. When Joseph decided to stay with an obviously pregnant Mary, their small community would have assumed that both Mary and Joseph had violated God's law by having relations before their marriage day.

Sometimes following God's call leads us into unexpected situations. Sometimes, we are asked to do things that some will misunderstand. May we all have the courage and grace of Saint Joseph, who stood by the one he loved.

Reflection Question

When has God called me to do something unexpected or challenging?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- drawing paper

- Lesson 12 Activity Master – Saint Page (included with this lesson)

(Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Pray together: *“God the Father, thank you for the Good News of your Son, Jesus. Help us to love him more each day. Amen.”*

Discovering

The Angel Talks to Joseph. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Joseph.

Ask your child, “What does this story teach us about Saint Joseph?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Joseph’s Dream. Turn to the drawing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she

sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity and have your child complete it.

2. Draw and Talk about Angels. Give your child a sheet of drawing paper and crayons or colored pencils. Have him or her draw an angel. Together, talk about the drawing and some special things about angels.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Lawrence of Canterbury. Show your child the picture of Saint Lawrence on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Lawrence to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child, “Can you think about a time when you felt like quitting something that was hard?”

Have your child draw about Saint Lawrence of Canterbury using the Lesson 12 Activity Master.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

“Dear God, thank you for your Son, Jesus. Help us to not be afraid, because your plans are good. Amen.”

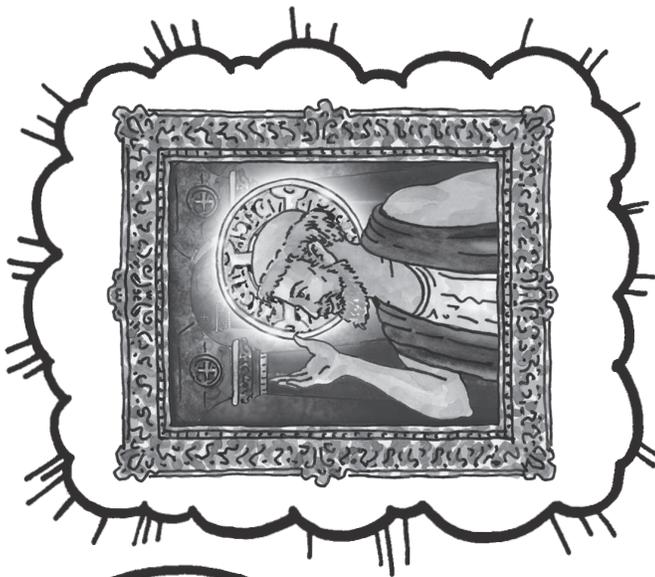
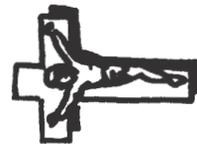
Saint Lawrence of Canterbury

Don't Give Up!

Lawrence felt frustrated. He had given up all of his comforts, like fancy clothing and a fancy home, to become a monk. He did that because he wanted to serve God. In fact, Pope Gregory the Great, the most important Catholic leader at that time, had asked Lawrence to travel to Canterbury, England. His job was to help people become Christians. But they wouldn't listen! Some Christians even stopped believing in God. Lawrence felt so sad and angry that he decided to go home.

While he was sleeping, Lawrence dreamed about Saint Peter the Apostle. He told Lawrence, "Don't quit!" He reminded Lawrence that a shepherd would never leave his sheep. "If you leave Canterbury, the people will never learn!" Lawrence decided to stay. He worked harder than ever to help people learn to love God. Then one day King Edbald listened! He explained why he loved God to the people in his kingdom. And they listened too! Lawrence of Canterbury was glad he didn't quit.

DRAW



**Saint
Lawrence of
Canterbury,
pray for us!**