

Christmas Stories with Jolly

By Jill Crowder

An Angel Visits
Joseph



Preschool
Edition

An Angel Visits Joseph

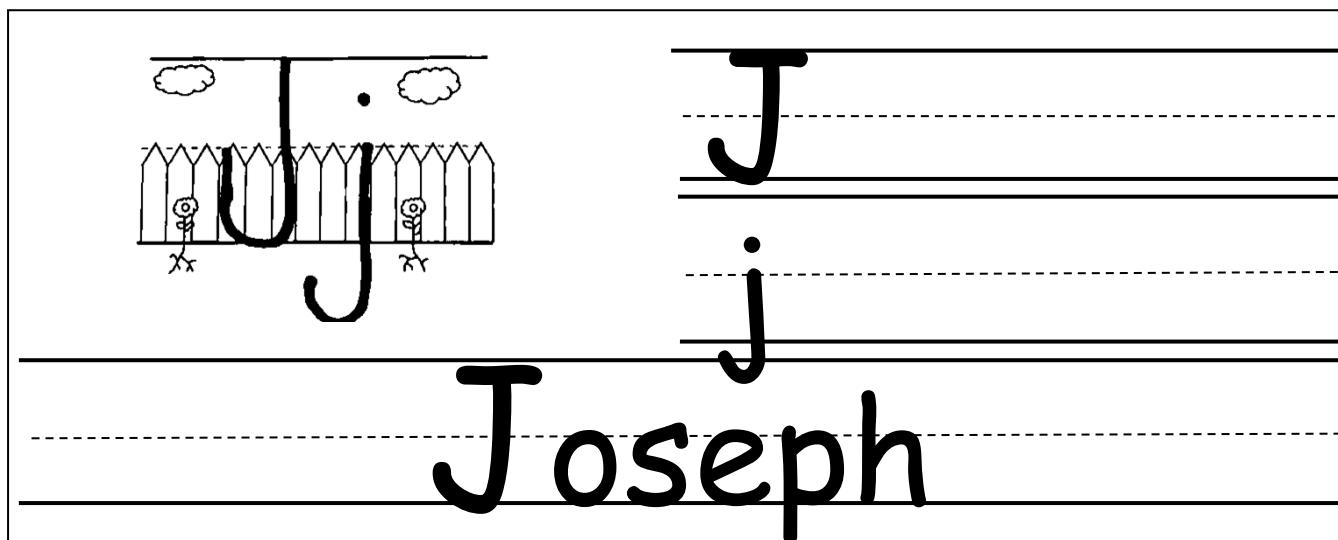
There once was a man named Joseph. Joseph was from a very important family. King David was one of his great, great, great, lots of greats, grandfathers, but Joseph was just an ordinary man. Joseph lived in a place called Nazareth, but his family was from Bethlehem. Joseph was engaged to be married to a young girl named Mary. Joseph and Mary had promised to love each other and told everyone about their plans to get married. In those days, that meant they promised they would be together forever even though they hadn't had the wedding yet.

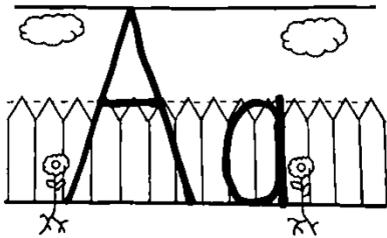
One day Joseph learned some very important news that upset him very much. He found out that Mary was going to have a baby. They were not ready to become a family with a baby yet because they weren't even married. Joseph was very upset because he thought Mary was starting a family with someone else. They had promised to be together forever. This baby was not part of their plans. This upset him so much he decided he didn't want to get married to her anymore. But back then, breaking up was hard to do. Everyone already knew their plans. The only way to change those plans was to divorce her, and that was a very big deal.

Joseph had two choices. He could either tell everyone that Mary was starting a family with someone else after she promised to be married to him, or he could keep that part a secret and divorce her privately. If he told everyone about the baby, Mary would be in a lot of trouble and people might even try to kill her. Joseph didn't want that to happen to Mary, so his plan was to divorce her in private.

One night before Joseph divorced Mary, something very strange happened. An angel came to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph not to be afraid. He was there to deliver a very special message from God. He reminded Joseph he was part of the family of King David and that God had promised to one day send a very special baby to someone in King David's family. This baby would be the Messiah to save all people from their sins and bring them closer to God. Then the angel told Joseph that the baby in Mary's tummy was that very special baby. Mary wasn't trying to start a family with someone else, but God had put that very special baby in her tummy. God chose Mary over all other women to be the mother of the Messiah as part of His special plan to save all people. The angel told Joseph that it was God's plan for him to get married to Mary and they needed to name the baby Jesus.

Joseph woke up from his dream. He decided not to divorce Mary but to do just what the angel had told him to do.



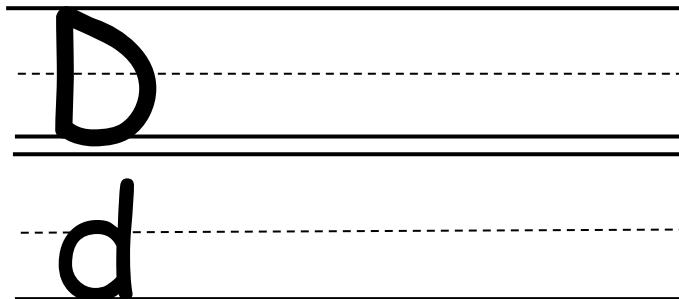
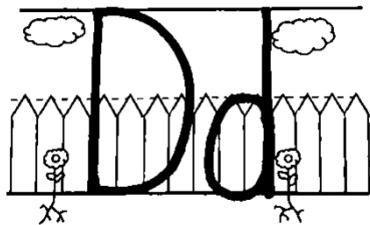


A

a

angel

1. Whose family did Joseph belong to?
2. Who was Joseph engaged to marry?
3. What upsetting news did Joseph learn about Mary?
4. Why did this news upset him?
5. What did Joseph plan to do to Mary after he found out the news?
6. What changed his mind?
7. What did the angel tell Joseph about the baby in Mary's tummy?
8. What did the angel tell Joseph to do?
9. What did the angel tell Joseph to name the baby?
10. When Joseph woke up, what did he decide to do?

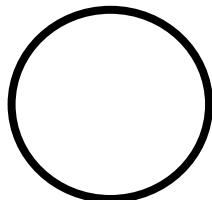


David

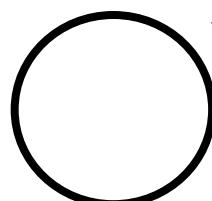
The angel came to Joseph while he was asleep to tell him what he needed to do while he was awake. Asleep and awake are opposites. Opposites are things that are all the way different. Look at the pictures below. Match the picture on the top with its opposite on the bottom.



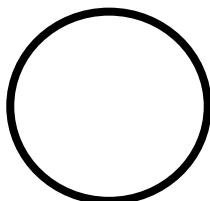
A lot of crazy things were happening to Joseph. First, he was engaged to be married. Then he thought he needed to break up with Mary because he thought she had not been faithful. Then the angel showed up with a message. Just imagine what it must have felt like to be Joseph. In the circles below draw a face to match how you would have felt to be Joseph during all the different parts of this lesson.



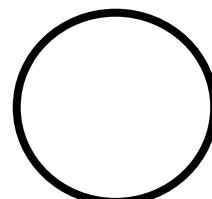
Joseph engaged to Mary



Joseph thinking Mary
was unfaithful



Joseph sees an angel in
his dream



Joseph when the angel
tells him God's plan

And she shall bring forth a son, and
thou shalt call his name Jesus

Matthew 1:21

Aa

engaged

- When two people decide to get married to each other.

When the angel came to Joseph, he was asleep in his bed. In the space below, draw a bed.

- I lived in Nazareth.
- I was engaged to be married.
- I almost got a divorce, but an angel appeared and changed things.
- I was a very special part of God's plan.
- I was part of the family of Daivid.

Who am I?

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou
shalt call his name Jesus. Matthew 1:21



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