

Christmas Stories with Jolly

by Jill Crowder

An Angel Visits Joseph



For grades 3-5

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.

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?

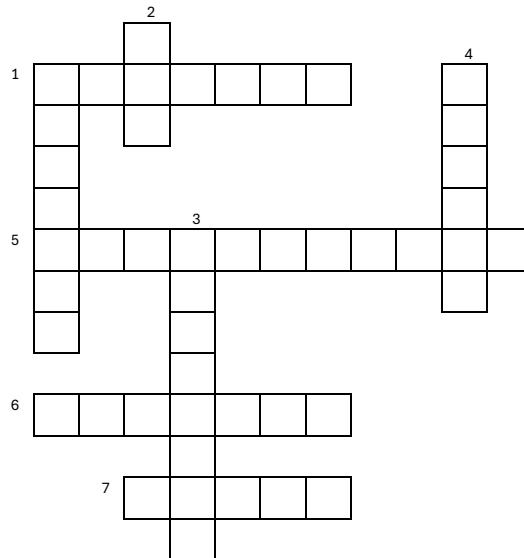
Look it Up! (All answers are KJV specific.)

Down

1. Matthew 1:19 - Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away _____
2. Matthew 1:25 – And he knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn _____: and he called his name JESUS
3. Matthew 1:18 – ...When as his mother Mary was _____ to Joseph
4. Matthew 1:24 – Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had _____ him.

Across

1. Matthew 1:22 – Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the _____
5. Matthew 1:23 - ...and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being _____ is, God with us.
6. Matthew 1:20 – But while he _____ on these things.
7. Matthew 1:21 – And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name _____



In My World

When Joseph thought Mary had been unfaithful to him, he had the option to divorce her. In that time being engaged was legally the same as being married. To end that relationship would require an official divorce. Joseph could have exposed Mary to the whole town in a public divorce, and she would have probably been stoned for her unfaithfulness. Joseph chose peace. Joseph didn't want to expose Mary or hurt her, so he planned to just divorce her in private until the angel appeared to him. In life, there will be times when you will have the upper hand. There will be times when you might have the option of revenge for the wrong things someone has done to you. As Christians, we should try to respond peacefully and in love. We should try to give the same mercy and grace that Christ has given us.

Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever been totally wrong about a situation to the point that your entire attitude changed about it?
2. Have you ever exposed someone for the wrong things they had done and then realized revenge wasn't as sweet as you thought it would be?

My Prayer for You

My prayer for you is that you trust God with how you respond to conflict in your life. Our natural response when someone has wronged us is to react in anger or revenge. I pray that you seek God's wisdom and guidance in all situations. I pray you never look at a situation and assume you know all the details because of how things appear. Take time to ask questions and pray before you say or do something in anger that you might regret later.

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

Matthew 1:21



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1. King David
2. Mary
3. She was going to have a baby
4. He thought she had been unfaithful to him
5. Divorce her
6. The angel
7. He would be the Messiah
8. Marry Mary
9. Jesus
10. Do what the angel had told him to do.

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Down

1. Privily
2. Son
3. Espoused
4. Bidden

Across

1. Prophet
5. Interpreted
6. Thought
7. Jesus