



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle A - IV Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7, 10-14; Psalm 23; Romans 1,1-7; Matthew 1, 18-24

“The virgin shall conceive and bear a son.”

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel*, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

Reflection

Few days are left for Christmas and today the Gospel speaks to us about a man named Joseph.

Who was Joseph? (He was a carpenter, descendent of King David, husband of the Virgin Mary, and the earthly father of Jesus.) **How did Joseph feel when he found out Mary was with child?** (Joseph was upset because they had not yet lived together.) **What did the law say about these cases?** (Joseph could accuse Mary and she could be stoned to death for infidelity.) **What does Joseph do?** (Joseph was a just man and knew Mary was innocent and good. Instead, he remained silent and left all in God's hands.)

How did Joseph find out that God is the father of Jesus? (God sent him an angel in a dream who told him not to fear taking Mary as his wife since she conceived by the Holy Spirit. God was the Father.) **The angel told him to name the child Jesus. What does Jesus mean?** (God saves.) **What does Emmanuel mean?** (God is with us) **What did Joseph do when he awoke?** (He did what the angel said and took Mary as his wife.) **This Advent, have we made time for prayer? Have we left our worries in God's hands? Have we opened our hearts to God and listened to Him with love and obedience? Let us ask for more faith, love, and obedience so we may be more like St. Joseph.**

Activity

On the next page, color and complete the activity. On the last page, make the Christmas ornament.

Prayer

My God, I want to imitate St. Joseph and do what you ask of me. Help me to always accept your plans. Help me to let go of fear and leave all in your hands staying united to you in prayer. Please be born in my heart and stay with me always. Amen.

Song: Papa Joseph, LIHM Sisters, <https://youtu.be/EWmiJ25eMkk> (3-7 years)
Joseph's Song, Michael Card, <https://youtu.be/KT4VDAIaMwU> (8+ years)

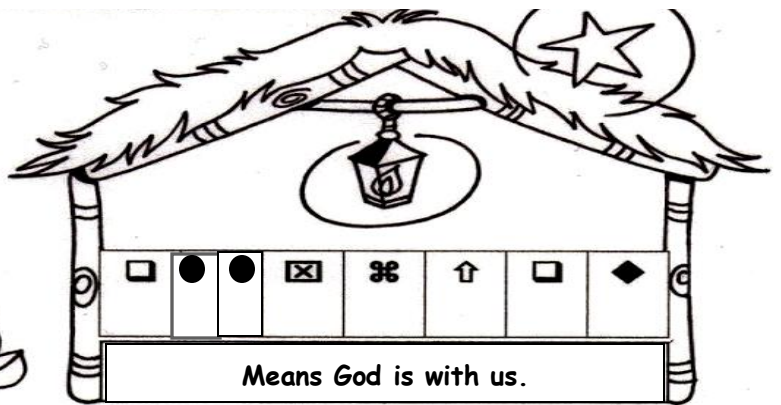
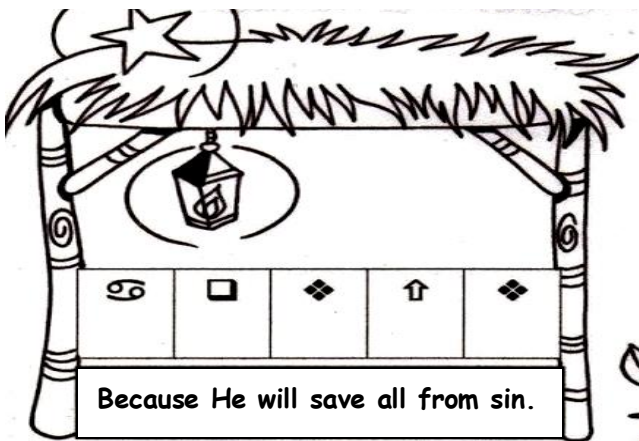
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Do not fear taking Mary as your wife.

Discover in each stable, the names of the Child God and their meanings by inserting the letter that corresponds with the symbols.



References:

A... ☒ E... □ L... ◆ J... ☐ U... ↑ M... ● N... ☒ S... ◆



CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

DECEMBER 25th

Song: Carol Medley (Ctrl Click) <https://youtu.be/McQ6ewm36i0>



Baby Jesus, born under a star, be born
in my heart, and always be my light.

*Isaiah 7:14 " Therefore
the Lord himself shall give
you a sign; Behold, a
virgin shall conceive, and
bear a son, and shall call
his name Immanuel."*



Instructions: Cut and color picture. Glue on piece of cardboard ½ inch wider/taller. Glue sticks on borders. Glue raffia or yarn on manger's hay. Glue star on top. Glue rope/ribbon to back. Cut and glue prophecy to back.