

THE ANGEL TALKS TO JOSEPH

Joseph, Mary's fiancé, has found out that Mary was going to have a baby. Thinking that Mary has sinned (and he didn't want to bring shame upon her) Joseph decided to break-off the engagement quietly. As he considered this an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and told him that what happened to Mary was no sin. The child had been conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also said that the baby will save his people from their sins, and his name would be Jesus. Then Joseph married Mary.

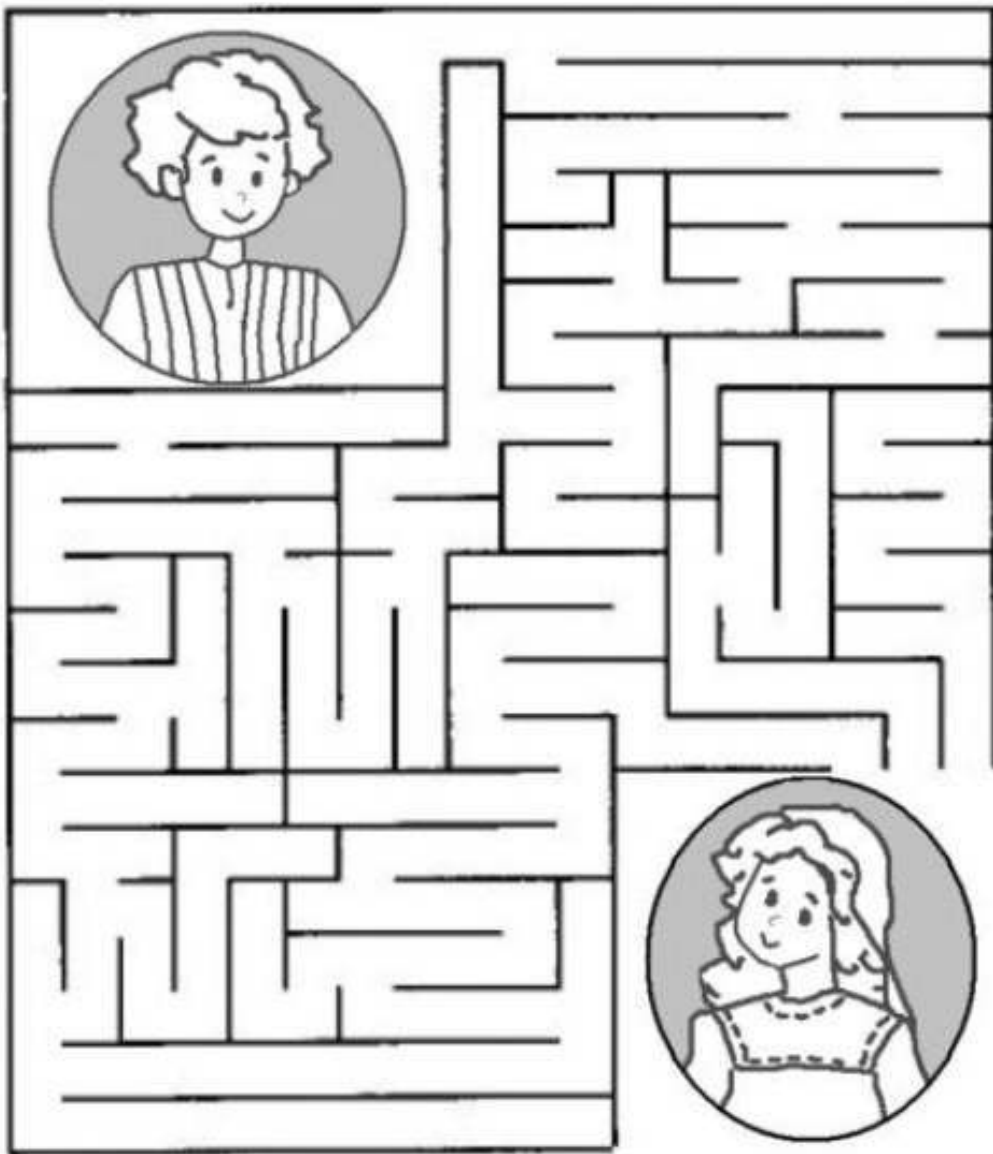


"But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:20b-21



Why did Joseph want to leave Mary?

Help Joseph find Mary!



Lesson 3

The angel appears to Joseph (Joseph and the Angel)

Biblical passage: Matthew 1:18-25

Key verse: Matthew 1:20b-21

Purpose: The children will understand what happened when the angel appeared to Joseph.

Please note!

Plan suitable activities for your group of children. The following activities can be adapted depending on the group's size, age, ability, the amount of time available, etc.

LESSON AND ACTIVITIES

I. Lesson

After the children finish the coloring page, the teacher will tell them the story about Joseph and Mary from Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph, who was engaged to be married to Mary, was a righteous man. He descended from the family of King David.

After Mary received the news that she would give birth to a son who would be the Savior of the world, she accepted this mission from God. Many would judge her wrongly, even accusing her of sin or condemning her to death (for the Jews, to have a child without being married was a sin punished by death.) Joseph, when he heard that Mary was going to have a baby, decided to quietly break their engagement because he was a good man and loved Mary. While Joseph was thinking about all this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and told him not to do this. For Mary's child is by the Holy Spirit. She will have a son with the name of Jesus and he will save his people from their sins. The angel also told him that all this happened to fulfill the prophecies. So Joseph married Mary just as the angel said.

II. Activities

1. Key verse

a. Read aloud the key verse: "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:20b-21

b. Explain the verse, using several questions to help the children find the answers in the verse:

- Who was Joseph? The son of David
- What did Joseph not want to do? Take Mary as his wife.
- Why was Joseph afraid to take Mary as his wife? Because she was going to have a baby.
- What was Mary's mission? To have a son.
- Who will this child be? Jesus, the Savior.

- What mission will this child have? To save his people from their sins.
- c. Help the children memorize the key verse, using different methods.

2. Key questions for review:

- What are all the names of the Savior that appear in the Gospels and what do they mean?
- Why did God choose a virgin to give birth to the Savior?
- Did Joseph fully trust Mary?
- Who visited Joseph and what did he say?
- What message did the angel bring Joseph?
- What did Joseph do after he awoke?

III. Conclusion

Frequently we judge those near us without knowing the truth or their mission. Joseph believed that Mary had sinned, so he wanted to quietly leave her. This shows that he considered her to be guilty. But the Lord spoke to him through an angel. Have you been quick to judge someone without knowing the truth, as Joseph did? Whenever you want to accuse someone of doing wrong, think twice! Then let the Lord judge!