

Annunciation to Joseph- Matthew 1:18-25

THE POINT

Focus:

Jesus is God's Son.

Jesus is the Savior!

Application:

We believe Jesus is 100% God and 100% human.

HEART CONNECTION (4-6 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- Christmas decorations like lights, garlands, an advent wreath, ornaments, or a manger scene

Content:

Decorate the worship space for Advent, even just hanging a few lights or garlands around the room makes things feel festive! Talk about how the church dresses up for Advent, getting ready for Jesus birth. At home we get our houses ready. This matches how we spend time getting our hearts ready to welcome Jesus, too.

Invite children to think of 1 special thing to share with the group of a way they are preparing their home or their heart for Christmas coming.

Transition to the story saying something like, **For the first Christmas, when Jesus was born, God had a lot of getting ready to do, too. In our story today, we'll see how God prepared Joseph to help Mary welcome baby Jesus into the world.**

STORY CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- red construction paper hearts for each child
- a print-out color-able manger with Jesus that can be glued on each heart
- a print-out color-able cross that can be glued on each heart
- scissors
- glue sticks

Instructions: As you read, have the children color the manger and the cross while you read the story. Emphasize verse 21 when Gabriel shares with Joseph that Jesus will be the savior. Even from the very beginning, it's clear that Jesus has a special purpose! Jesus will be a baby in a manger at Christmas, but eventually Jesus will save the people from their sins!

Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.

Matthew 1:18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph was faithful to the law. But he did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.

20 But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet, 23 "The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) The name Immanuel means "God with us."

24 Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not sleep with her until she gave birth to a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.

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WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what it was like for Joseph to see and hear an angel in his dream.

I wonder if Joseph sometimes still felt afraid to obey God.

I wonder what it was like to hear that this baby, Jesus, would save him from his sins.

What do you wonder?

SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.