

Joseph's Dream

This Sunday school lesson will teach the children the importance of living a righteous life and how we must always allow God to lead us through the difficult times we will encounter.

TOPICS

Birth of Christ, Christmas, Joseph, Righteousness

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

Have the memory verse written on the board. As the children arrive, give them paper and markers. Have each child select one of the five characteristics: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, or patience. Then draw a picture of someone displaying this quality. You may want to offer suggestions, for example a mom putting a bandage on a small child to show compassion, or a boy petting a small dog to show gentleness. You may also want to assign one of the characteristics for each child to draw so you will have all five for use with the memory verse activity.

MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians 3:12 NIV

The kids will be familiar with this verse from last week. This time, tape the pictures drawn during the "As Kids Arrive" activity on the wall in the correct order. Then see how well the kids can say the entire verse using the pictures as a guide.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

Introduction:

Before Jesus was born, there was a righteous man who was a descendent of King David. His name was Joseph. He was engaged to Mary, a young woman who was also a virgin. In those ancient times when someone was engaged, it was almost like they were married, except they did not live in the same house. The engagement was a serious commitment compared to today's practices. In fact, the only way to break if off was to get a divorce. Joseph loved Mary very much, but when he found out she was already pregnant, he was very disappointed. But being a reasonable and decent person, he decided not to get mad, or let anyone know what was going on. If he told anyone, Mary would be in really big trouble. So instead, Joseph quietly planned a divorce. Let's see what happened next.

Read Matthew 1:18-24

Have the kids find this story in their Bibles. Ask for volunteers to read the passage, or if you prefer you can read it to the children.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happened after Joseph decided to divorce Mary? *(An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.)*
2. Why did the angel visit Joseph? *(To tell him not to be afraid, and it was OK to keep Mary as his wife.)*
3. Why was a virgin chosen by God to be the mother of His Son? *(To fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet, that a virgin would give birth to Jesus.)*
4. What did Joseph do after he woke up from his dream? *(He took Mary home as his wife.)*
5. Why did God choose Joseph to be Mary's husband? *(Because he was a righteous man and a descendent of King David.)*
6. If we are troubled or worried about something, like Joseph was about Mary, what will happen if our heart is right with God? *(God will help us understand His plan for us, just as he sent an angel to Joseph to assure him everything would be alright.)*

CLASS EXERCISE (20 minutes)

Genealogy of Jesus Wheel (Craft) [page 3](#)

Before beginning this craft, have the children look up Matthew 1:1-16 and see how many of the names they recognize. Explain that this is the genealogy of Jesus, as recorded in the Bible. This passage names 38 great grandfathers to Jesus. It is hard for us to know the name of our great-great-grandfather, let alone great to the 38th time. The genealogy shows that Jesus came from a long line of royal families and kings.

APPLICATION (4 minutes)

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The Bible does not tell us too much about Joseph. Besides being a descendant of King David, and a caring and considerate husband to Mary, little is said of his personality. One thing we know for sure from our Bible passage today is that Joseph was a righteous man. Proverbs 20:7 says, "The righteous man leads a blameless life, blessed are his children after him." Because of Joseph, and his willingness to be a faithful husband to Mary, all of us who are God's children have been truly blessed. Sometimes in our lives we are faced with difficult times or worries. But if we have faith, and trust in the Lord, He will always help us through the difficulties. He may send us a friend, a parent, a kind word, or perhaps even an angel. Next time you are faced with a difficult situation, stop and pray. Allow God to show you the way.

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GENEALOGY OF JESUS WHEEL

Jesus came from a royal family, a direct descendant of King David. The Genealogy of Jesus Wheel provides the kids a fun way to compare the Genealogy of Jesus with their own.

TOPICS:

Birth of Jesus, Family

MATERIALS:

Construction Paper

Brass brad

Genealogy Wheel Instructions/Template [PDF] [page 4](#)

Scissors

Pencils or markers

DURATION:

Approximately 20 minutes

PREPARATION:

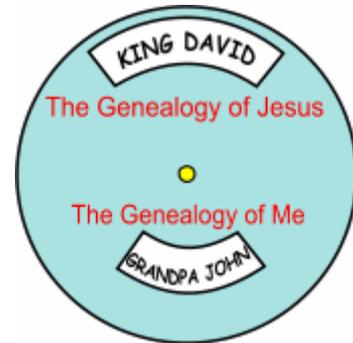
Print a copy of the "Genealogy Wheel" and follow the instructions to make a wheel for each child in the class.

To save time you can have the top and bottom pieces and the windows already cut out before class.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Explain to the children that they will be using a wheel to compare the genealogy of Jesus with that of their own family. Have the children select a top piece and a bottom piece and help them complete the wheel according to the instructions. During construction, discuss how hard it would be to go back even 10 generations in our own family, but in Matthew chapter 1, we can read about how Jesus was a descendant of Abraham, going back over 40 generations.

Note: For the genealogy of Jesus, the children will use the names of Joseph, David, and Abraham. These names show similarities in ancestry, but explain that they do not represent the actual father, grandfather and great grandfather of Jesus.



Genealogy Wheel Instructions:

Using light-colored heavy construction paper or thin poster board, cut out two circles using the pattern below for each child. Cut out the windows as shown on the pattern from one of the circles. One window should be 1/4 inch from the edge and 3/4 inches wide. The other window should be 1 inch from the edge and 3/4 inches wide. Write "The Genealogy of Jesus" and "The Genealogy of Me" as shown.

On the other circle (bottom), draw light lines dividing it into four equal parts, as you would a pie. With help from an adult, poke a hole in the center of each circle and fasten them together with a brass brad. As the top circle spins around, the children should see that they are working the correct area.

In the first quadrant, have the children write their name in "The Genealogy of Me," and Jesus Christ in "The Genealogy of Jesus. In the next quadrant, write their father's name and Joseph's name respectively. In the same manner as the two previous quadrants, have the children follow with their grandfather's name and David and their great-grandfather's name and Abraham. The children may need to ask their parents if they do not know the name of their great-grandparents.

