

Joseph

The Obedient One

Take children to God's Word and read the accounts of Joseph as told in Matthew 1:16-2:23 and Luke 1:26-2:52.

Who was this person?

- The earthly (legal) father of Jesus.
- The husband of Mary.
- A descendant (relative) of King David.
- He was a carpenter from Nazareth. He built and carved things out of wood.

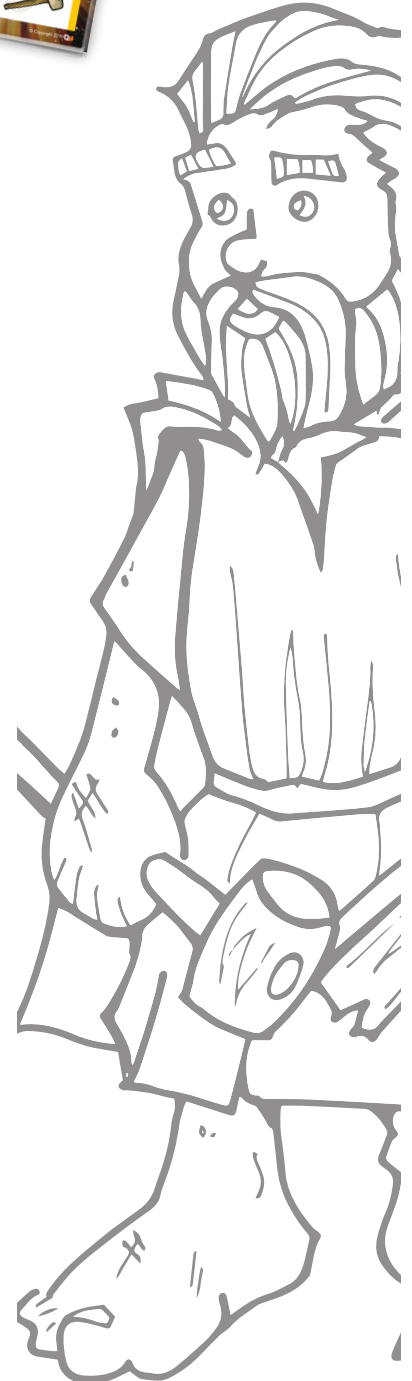
What is this person known for?

- Being a man of integrity. He knew that he wanted to take Mary as his wife but they were not married yet when he found out that she was going to be having a baby.
- Joseph was visited by an angel of the Lord who told him not to be afraid but to take Mary home as his wife because the baby she was carrying was from the Holy Spirit (God). The angel told him what to name the baby: "Jesus", because he will save his people from their sins."
- Disregarding what others think and choosing to follow God and His plan.

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN GOD'S STORY?

- **To remind us to trust God always.** It is so important to trust God at all times. Joseph went through some really unique things but he was faithful to God. It is so important to obey and trust God even when we don't understand what is happening (Psalm 37:4-6; Psalm 9:10; Isaiah 26:3; Psalm 91:1-3).
- **To remind us that God will use whomever He chooses to accomplish His purposes.** Your status, your background, your career and even your plans for your life don't matter—what matters is God's plan and if you are willing to submit to what He has for you. He knows best! (Proverbs 19:21; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Timothy 1:9)
- **To remind us that God will honour integrity.** God is pleased when we choose to live a life of integrity. Integrity is about being

Making The Bible Come Alive





honest and having strong morals and values. Godly integrity is best! He wants our values to be Christ-like (Colossians 3:23; Romans 12:2; Psalm 25:21; 1 Peter 3:16).

- **To remind us to listen and know God's voice.** With so many negative and varying opinions, teachings and discussions these days it is important to know the truth. We learn to distinguish God's voice and truth from lies when we spend time getting to know God through prayer, reading the Bible and taking time to be quiet and still in God's presence. God still speaks to us today. It is so important to know, listen and follow God when He speaks to us, just like Joseph was obedient when the angel came and spoke to him (Psalm 46:10; Proverbs 8:33; Isaiah 28:3; John 8:47).

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.

- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from this Bible character, how can I live in a way that is pleasing to God.

MORE IN GOD'S WORD

Joseph's story is told in two of the gospels, Matthew 1:16-2:23 and Luke 1:26-2:52. Matthew was a tax collector and Luke was a doctor. They saw Joseph from two very different views, but both of them recorded his story in Scripture.

How are the details around Joseph's life different in each of these accounts?

Joseph was a man who had very strong beliefs and he was prepared to do what was right, despite the pain and challenges that he (and Mary) could face. Who are some other people in the Bible that chose to follow God at all costs? Can you find that story in your Bible? Use your concordance at the back of your Bible, or think through the book titles in the Old and New Testaments. Where is your story most likely to be found? See if you can find it on your own, or with a little help from teachers or parents.