

THE FOSTER FATHER



Saint Joseph

Joseph

Jesus' Foster Father

Matthew 1:18-25

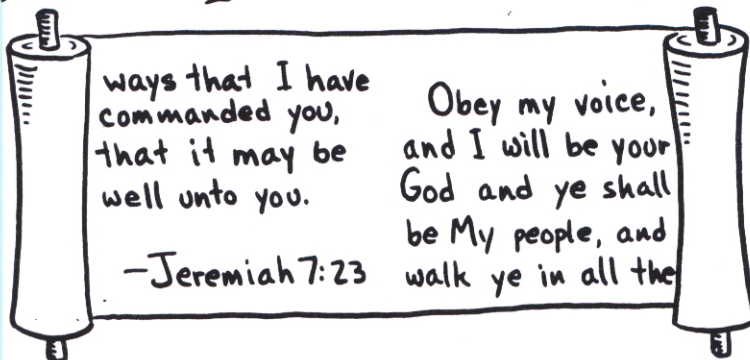


Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be My people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.
Jeremiah 7:23

Obedience Scroll

In Joseph's day, the Old Testament was written by hand on scrolls. The scroll was read from right to left. Joseph could have read the verse you will write on your scroll. How do you think this helped him to obey God? The Old Testament was written in Hebrew. Practice making some Hebrew letters on scrap paper. Then, add some to your scroll.

- | | |
|-------|--------------|
| house | eye |
| staff | head |
| water | palm of hand |



Introduction

Jesus' real Father was God. But His stepfather was Joseph, who took care of Jesus when He was young. While Joseph was engaged to Mary, she told him that she was to be the mother of God's Son. Joseph almost didn't marry her. Then, an angel of God told him in a dream that God wanted him to marry her. At once, Joseph obeyed God. God wanted Joseph to obey Him, so Jesus would have someone to take care of Him while He was young. God always has a good reason for telling us to obey Him.



Roll all the paper on the left.



It was hard for St. Joseph to understand how the Virgin Mary could give birth to the Son of God.

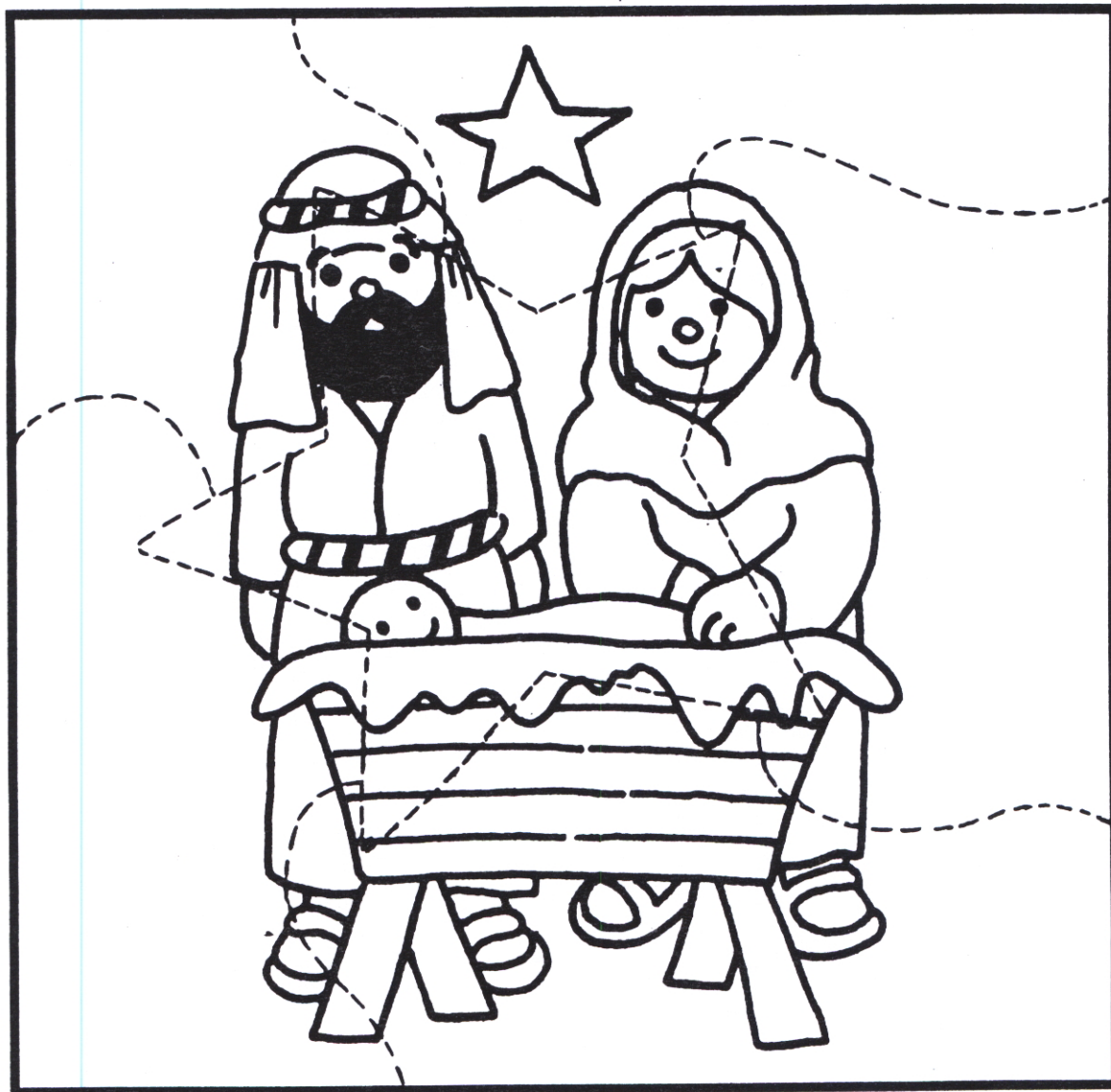
Baby Jesus Picture Puzzle

Jesus' Birth

Luke 2:7-16

When Jesus was born, his mother, Mary, wrapped Him in clean white cloth and laid Him in a manger so He could sleep peacefully. Jesus is God's Son. He is God's special gift to us.

Part of the puzzle is a special shape. Can you find it? What is it? What does it remind you about Jesus' birthday?



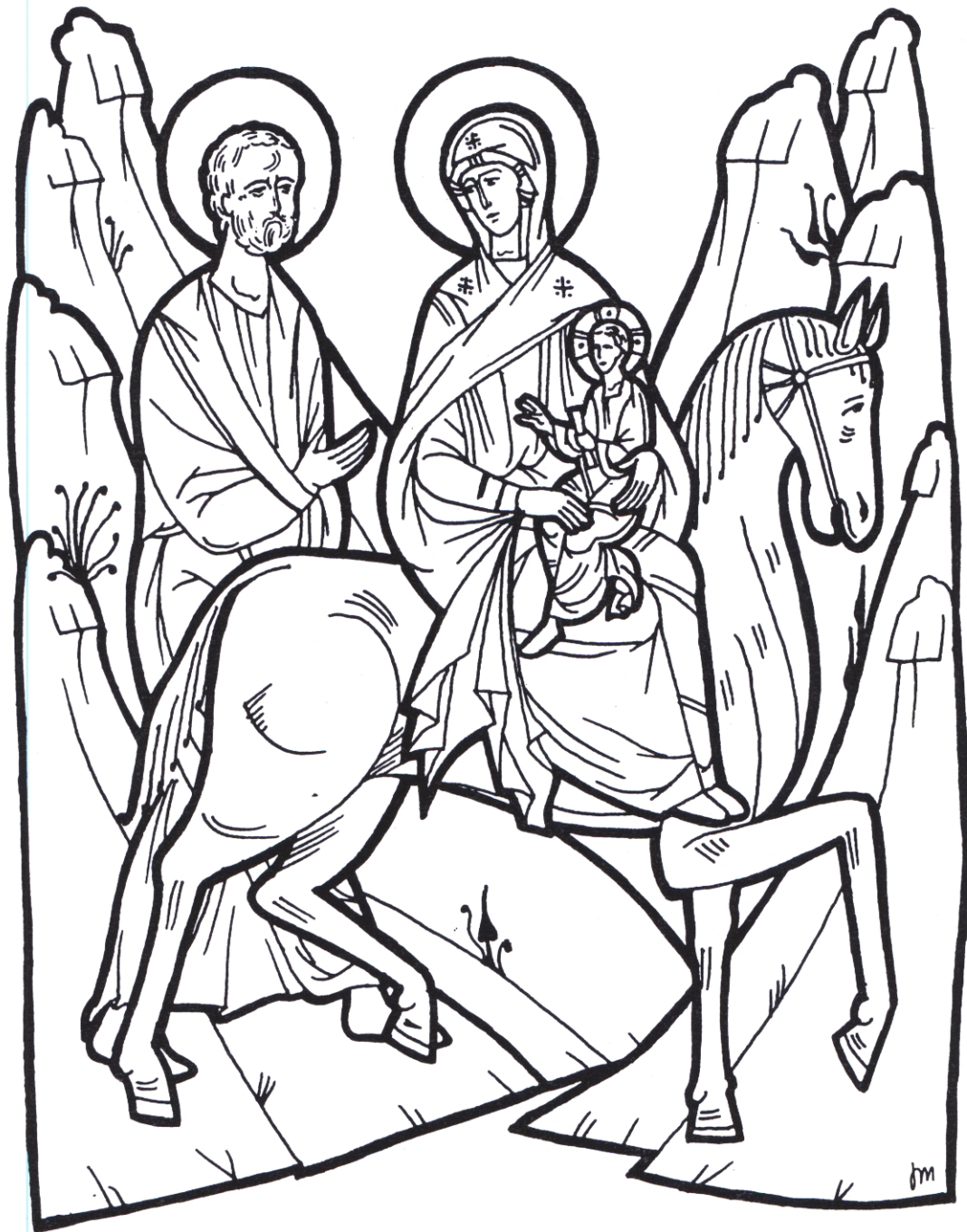


St. Joseph and the Mother of God bring the Christ Child to the temple on the 40th day.





Joseph's Dream



St. Joseph takes the Mother of God and the Christ Child for safety into Egypt. .



Joseph

Protecting Jesus

Matthew 2:13-23

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and His mother and escape to Egypt." Matthew 2:13

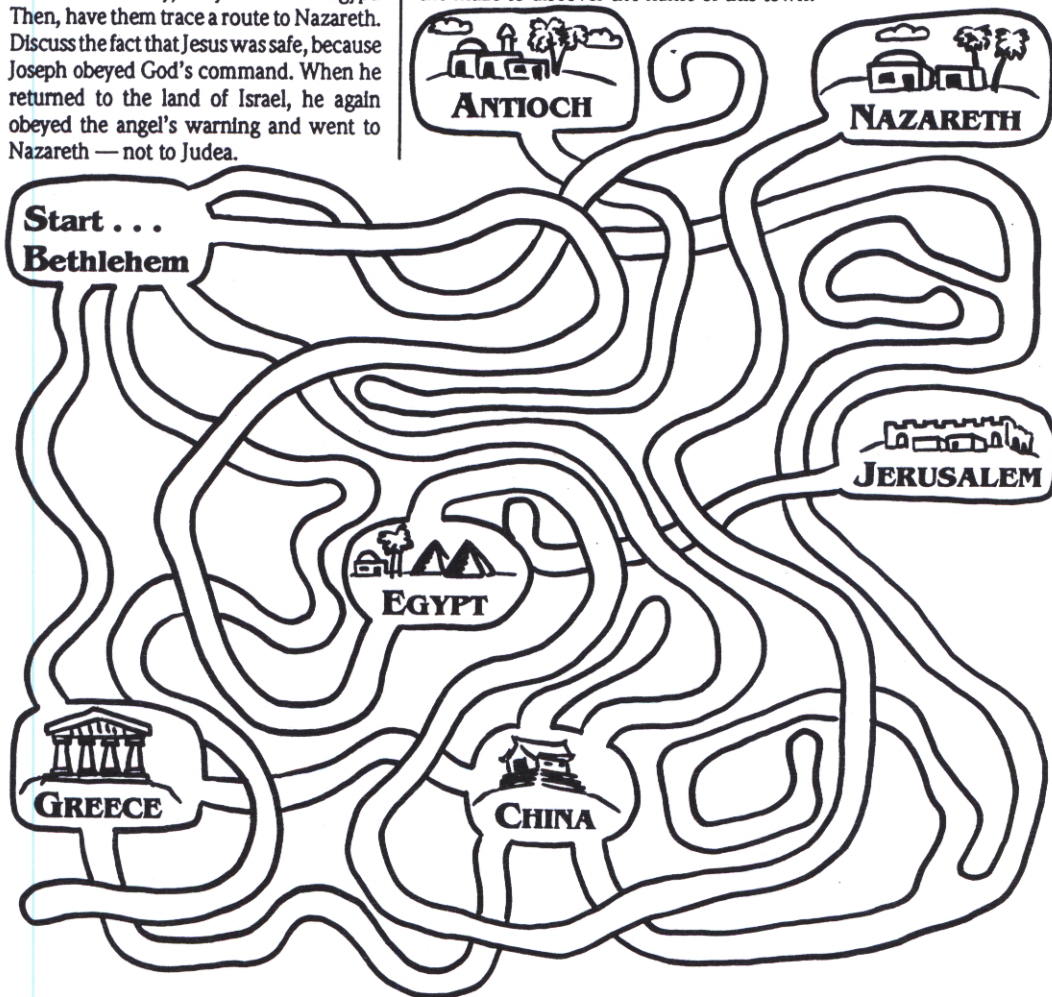
Duplicate a copy of the maze for each child. Provide pencils or markers. When the children have found the only route that leads to a country, they will be in Egypt. Then, have them trace a route to Nazareth. Discuss the fact that Jesus was safe, because Joseph obeyed God's command. When he returned to the land of Israel, he again obeyed the angel's warning and went to Nazareth — not to Judea.

Introduction

One night an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and warned him, "Herod wants to kill the young child. Get up and take Him and His mother away." Joseph obeyed at once, taking them on a long journey to another country. Herod killed all the boys around Bethlehem who were under the age of two, but Jesus was safe.

The Long Journey Maze

Where did Joseph take Mary and Jesus? You will find the answer as you work the maze. Joseph kept his family in that country until Herod was dead, and it was safe to return to their own land. Finish the maze to discover the name of this town.



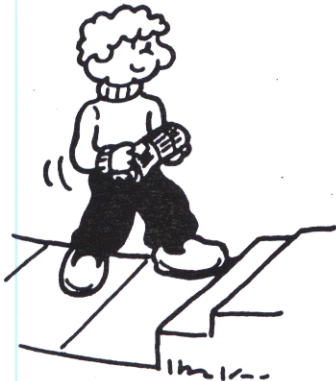
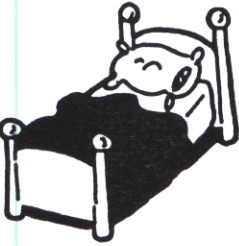


I Can Help at Home

While Jesus was growing up, He obeyed His parents and was kind to other people. He probably helped His parents with their work at home.

You can help your parents and other people too, like Jesus did.

Trace around your hand in the empty space near the pictures. Then draw a line from each finger to one job you can do at home to help your mother or father.



Jesus Grows

Luke 2:40, 52

Jesus Helps Joseph

Jesus was a child just like you are. The Bible says that Jesus obeyed God and His parents. Jesus wants you to obey God and your parents too. Jesus probably helped His mother, Mary clean up their house. Jesus probably helped Joseph work in his carpenter shop. How can you help your parents?

Color the picture of Jesus helping Joseph. Glue wood shavings on the ground.



Joseph

Teaching Jesus

Luke 2:40-41; Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3

He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He had been conceived... Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord.

Luke 2:21-22

First, have them draw the tools by following the dots. Then, show them how to use the code to fill the letters in the blanks. (To find 1, 8 move across row 1 and up column 8. They meet at letter C. Write C in the blank.) The answers are on page 63. Jesus obeyed His parents in everything, so we know that He willingly helped Joseph in the carpenter shop. Have the children discuss why it is important for them to help their parents at home.

Introduction

Joseph provided a godly home for Jesus to grow up in. We are sure he took Jesus to the synagogue to worship God and to go to school. When Jesus was twelve years old, Joseph took him to the temple in Jerusalem. In addition, Joseph taught Jesus a trade. This work was something Jesus did until He began His ministry.

Tools of the Trade Puzzle

Joseph may have died when Jesus was still quite young. Since Jesus was the oldest child in the family, He must have used His trade to help take care of Mary and the younger children. What kind of tools did He use? What was His trade? Solve the puzzle to find out.

Joseph's Trade

He was a 1, 8 2, 4 2, 6 3, 6 2, 8 3, 7 3, 4 2, 8 2, 6

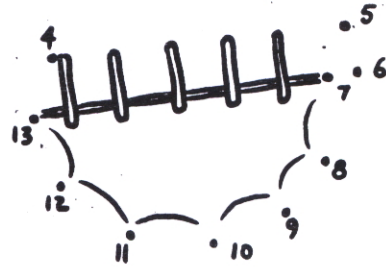
1	W	H	X	M	C
2	A	I	R	L	E
3	T	S	P	N	
	4	5	6	7	8



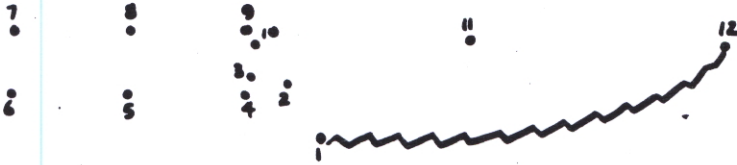
Joseph's Tools



3
14

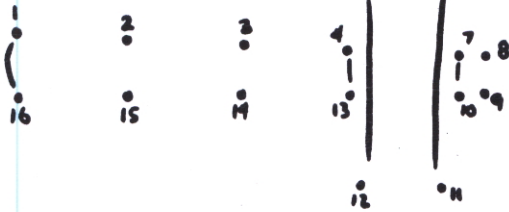


2, 4 1, 6 2, 8



14, 1

3, 5 2, 4 1, 4



13, 2

12, 3

11, 4

10, 5

9, 6

8, 7

1, 7 2, 4 2, 7 3, 7 2, 8 3, 4

1, 8 1, 5 2, 5 3, 5 2, 8 2, 7

1	W	H	X	M	C
2	A	I	R	L	E
3	T	S	P	N	
	4	5	6	7	8