

CHRISTMAS

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

3

JOSEPH MARRIES MARY

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



JOSEPH MARRIES MARY

Memory Verse:

Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart. (Psalm 119:34 NIV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Joseph was

#2 - Discover what obedience led Joseph to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

Matthew 1:1-25



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Matthew 1:18-25

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: Joseph

His Heroic Feat: Obeyed the Lord

Obeying the Lord may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place under these circumstances:" Before Mary and Joseph were married, Mary learned that she was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18 AMP)

Joseph was faithful to God; he kept God's law. So when Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant, before he knew the circumstances, he was thinking about divorcing her. Divorce sounds odd, since they weren't married yet, but a promise to marry someone was as serious as the actual marriage and getting out of it required a divorce. Joseph didn't like the fact that Mary was pregnant with a baby that wasn't his. Even though Joseph didn't want to marry Mary anymore, he did not want to publicly disgrace her, either.

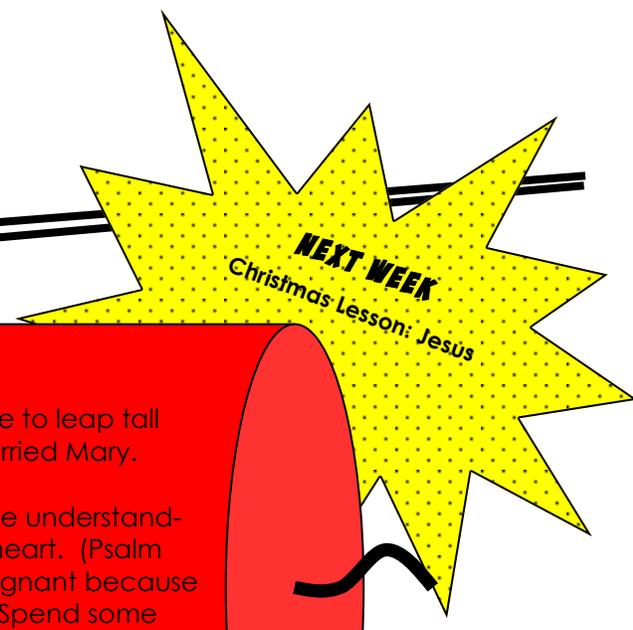
While Joseph was thinking these things through, "an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream." (Matthew 1:20 NIV) The angel told him, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the baby in her is from the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 1:20b NCV) The angel continued to explain that Mary would have a baby boy. Joseph was supposed to name him Jesus, which means Savior. He would be named this because He was coming into the world to save His people from their sins!

All of this was going to happen because God was keeping a promise that He made seven hundred years before. That promise is found in Isaiah 7:14 (AMP), "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, the young woman who is unmarried *and* a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel [God with us]."

When Joseph woke up from his dream, he did exactly what the angel told him to do. Joseph obeyed God and married Mary. He kept her a virgin until after the birth of her firstborn Son. Joseph named that son Jesus, just as the angel commanded him to.

What a privilege, and great responsibility . . . Joseph would be Jesus' earthly father! And even though God chose the name, Joseph had the honor of naming Jesus. Why the name Jesus? Do you remember? He would be named Jesus because He was coming into the world to save His people from their sins!

God loved you so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus. What a gift! Have you accepted that gift? Have you been saved from your sins? If not, let's talk.



YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Joseph obeyed the Lord and married Mary.

Do you obey the Lord? Our memory verse says, "Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart. (Psalm 119:34 NIV) Once Joseph understood that Mary was pregnant because of the power of the Holy Spirit, he obeyed immediately. Spend some time talking to God. Ask Him for understanding and then be willing to obey.

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

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ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Make scrolls out of brown construction paper or manila paper. Print the memory verse on the scroll.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "Trust and Obey," "I Will," "O Come, O Come, Immanuel," "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus," "Go, Tell it on the Mountain," "Joy to the World" or other Christmas songs related to the lesson.
- Re-enact the lesson.
- **For more training:** Read and discuss the following verses in light of the memory verse on obedience. Discuss Joseph's obedience. (Matthew 8:27, 28:20, Mark 1:27, Luke 11:28 and John 14:23-24)
- **For more training:** Read and discuss Matthew 1:21 (AMP) - "She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus [the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua, which means Savior], for He will save His people from their sins [that is, prevent them from failing and missing the true end and scope of life, which is God]."
- **For more training:** Read and discuss Isaiah 7:14 and John 1:14. Read them from the Amplified Bible, if possible.

Give me
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Psalm 119:34

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HERO IN TRAINING

Joseph Marries Mary

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HERO TRAINING!

Scripture:

Matthew 1:18-25

Memory verse:

Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart. (Psalm 119:34 NIV)

Our Hero: _____

What did our hero do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

Do you have the power? _____

Read Isaiah 7:14. How did God make this promise come true?

WORD

SEARCH!

N	F	V	J	J	P	T	A	P	G	F	H	B
L	E	I	O	B	A	G	N	E	G	N	A	B
U	F	R	S	L	I	H	G	A	O	R	L	A
T	A	G	E	H	M	D	E	S	A	R	P	B
E	I	I	P	P	A	A	L	P	N	E	M	Y
R	T	N	H	E	R	R	O	E	E	V	I	F
L	H	I	O	S	R	I	F	C	B	E	T	R
L	F	R	B	O	Y	H	T	I	S	D	E	O
S	U	S	E	J	M	I	H	E	M	A	N	M
W	L	A	Y	Y	A	U	E	L	P	G	A	G
S	I	P	E	E	R	H	L	F	S	F	D	O
U	T	E	D	E	Y	H	O	A	I	O	R	D
L	O	R	D	S	S	E	R	V	A	N	E	W
E	C	R	O	V	I	D	D	E	T	N	A	W
J	H	L	A	S	T	D	M	R	S	S	M	G

- Joseph
- faithful
- wanted divorce
- angel of the Lord
- dream
- marry Mary
- baby from God
- name Him Jesus
- Joseph obeyed

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
 Complete the key by writing the numbers backwards.
 Use the key to find the memory verse.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

G I V E M E U N D E R S T A N D I N G ,
 20 18 5 22 14 22 6 13 23 22 9 8 7 26 13 23 18 13 20

S O I H A I I M A Y K E E P Y O U R L A W
 8 12 7 19 26 7 18 14 26 2 16 22 22 11 2 12 6 9 15 26 4

A N D O B E Y I T W I T H A L L M Y H E A R T .
 26 13 23 12 25 22 2 18 7 4 18 7 19 26 15 15 14 2 19 22 26 9 7

P S A L M 1 1 9 : 3 4
 11 8 26 15 14 Z Z R X W



WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page

N	F	V	J	J	P	T	A	P	G	F	H	B
L	E	I	O	B	A	G	N	E	G	N	A	B
U	F	R	S	L	I	H	G	A	O	R	L	A
T	A	G	E	H	M	D	E	S	A	R	P	B
E	I	I	P	P	A	A	L	P	N	E	M	Y
R	T	N	H	E	R	R	O	E	E	V	I	F
L	H	I	O	S	R	I	F	C	B	E	T	R
L	F	R	B	O	Y	H	T	I	S	D	E	O
S	U	S	E	J	M	I	H	E	M	A	N	M
W	L	A	Y	Y	A	U	E	L	P	G	A	G
S	I	P	E	E	R	H	L	F	S	F	D	O
U	T	E	D	E	Y	H	O	A	I	O	R	D
L	O	R	D	S	S	E	R	V	A	N	E	W
E	C	R	O	V	I	D	D	E	T	N	A	W
J	H	L	A	S	T	D	M	R	S	S	M	G

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