



**PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**December 13, 2020 – Joseph’s Joy (Matthew 1:18-24)**

**Prepare to Wonder**

**Faith Word: Joy**

The faith word this month is joy, a feeling of gratitude and happiness. Joy will often lead to celebration. Mary sang a beautiful song of joy when she knew she was doing what God had asked her to do. Joseph, on the other hand, was probably not overcome with joy. He was most likely torn between his feelings for Mary and the trouble he knew she would be in when it was discovered she was with child and not married.

The struggle was real. I imagine Joseph spent many sleepless nights not knowing what to do. During one of those sleepless nights, God sent an angel, Gabriel, to Joseph in a dream. Gabriel told Joseph the baby Mary carried was a gift from God to the world. Gabriel told Joseph, “You will call him Jesus... Emmanuel. (Emmanuel means ‘God with us’)” (Matthew 1:21, 23)

By naming Jesus, Joseph was officially accepting Jesus as his son, according to the laws in the ancient Mediterranean world. Joseph not only accepted Jesus as his son, he willingly raised and cared for Jesus. Joseph listened and did as God asked and, because he obeyed, he was filled with joy of having a son and celebrating with Mary at the birth of Jesus.

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation as we wait for the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. Joseph’s days may have been filled with joyful anticipation as he, too awaited the birth of Jesus.

## **Wonder with Me**

### **READ the Bible Story**

- Joseph’s Joy, from Matthew 1:18-24 (Read from your Bible or see below for the Celebrate Wonder version)

### **WATCH the Bible Story**

- <https://youtu.be/9IO2SvYPoP0>

## **SHARE the Faith Word**

Faith Word: Joy – A feeling of gratitude and happiness.

### **WONDER Together:**

1. What has God blessed you with?
2. What brings you joy?
3. What do you think it would be like to receive a message from an angel in a dream?

## **Spiritual Practice**

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 6 & 7). On pg. 7 you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.

**JOY sometimes comes from acceptance. Joseph accepted the words of the angel from God. He took Mary as his wife and raised Jesus as his son.**

**As you light your Advent wreath this week, read Matthew 1:18-24.**

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet, <sup>23</sup> "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."

<sup>24</sup> Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife.

**Sing your favorite carols or songs, and dance in celebration of the coming birth of Jesus.**

**Sing songs of joy and praise as you gather as a family this week.**

## **Go in Peace**

**Blessing:** Bless your child by touching them and saying **"Joy to the world! Let joy fill your heart!"**

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for all the joy in my life. Amen.

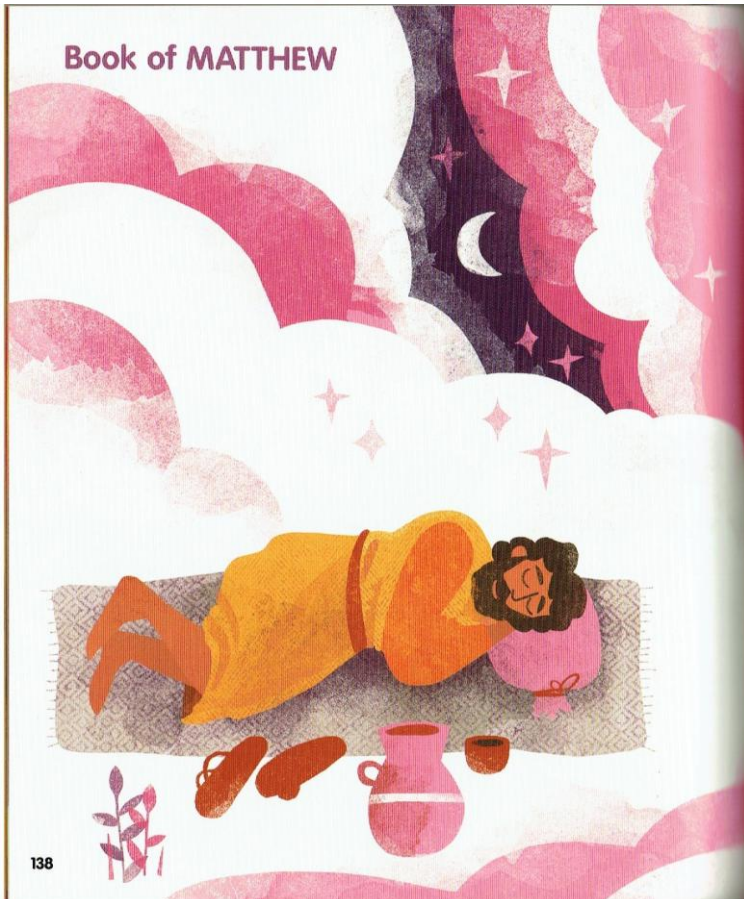
## Additional Activity for each age group

Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)



### Bible Storybook

#### Book of MATTHEW



#### Joseph's Joy

Matthew 1:18-24

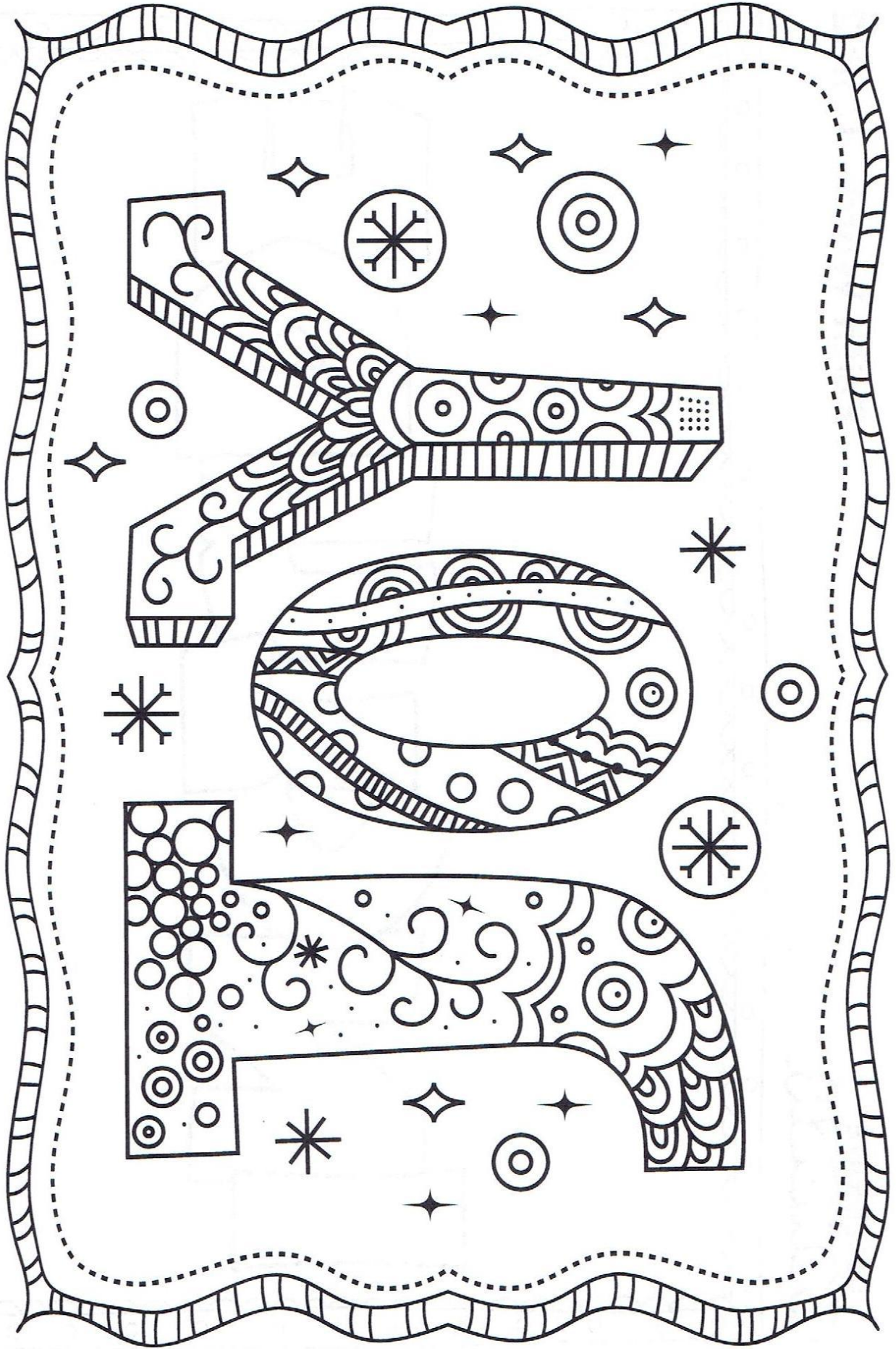
There was a man named Joseph whose family lived in Bethlehem. Joseph came from the family of King David. Joseph was engaged to marry a woman named Mary. Joseph learned that Mary was going to have a baby.

Joseph had a dream. In the dream, he saw an angel of God. The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary is having is God's gift to the whole world. Marry her. Name the baby, Jesus."

When he woke up, Joseph married Mary. When Mary gave birth to a son, Joseph named the baby, Jesus.

I wonder: Did Joseph have any more dreams like this?





# Preschool Activity

## Joyful Colors (Game)

**Supplies:** Beach towel or a small sheet, different colored bows of various sizes

**Say:** Bows usually mean presents and presents usually mean gifts, and gifts usually bring joy. Let's shake the cloth and see how long we can keep all the bows on the cloth.

- After a little bit, stop shaking the cloth and lay it down. Have everyone pick up a bow. Take turns sharing why each chose the color bow they did. Does that color bring them joy?
- Return to playing "parachute" with the bows as the interest remains.

**WONDER:** Sometimes we celebrate special times with gifts. The angel told Joseph that Jesus was a gift from God for everyone. How do you think Joseph celebrated the good news that Jesus was a gift from God?

### Continuation of the fun Finger Play activities:

#### Light a Candle: *(add a candle each week)*

**Light one candle Advent's here** *(Hold up 1 finger)*

**Light one candle Advent's here**

**Light one candle Advent's here**

**Christmas time is near.** (clap, clap)

**Light two candles Advent's here** *(Hold up 2 fingers)*

**Light two candles Advent's here**

**Light two candles Advent's here**

**Christmas time is near.** (clap, clap)

**Light three candles Advent's here** *(Hold up 3 fingers)*

**Light three candles Advent's here**

**Light three candles Advent's here**

**Christmas time is near.** (clap, clap)

**Light four candles Advent's here** *(Hold up 4 fingers)*

**Light four candles Advent's here**

**Light four candles Advent's here**

**Christmas time is near.** (clap, clap)

#### Our Best Gift:

**Here's a tree with lots of branches**

*(Arms down, 45-degree angle)*

**Presents hiding down below**

*(Point down)*

**But our best gift is Baby Jesus**

*(Pretend to rock baby)*

**Sent from heaven long ago.**

*(Point to heaven)*

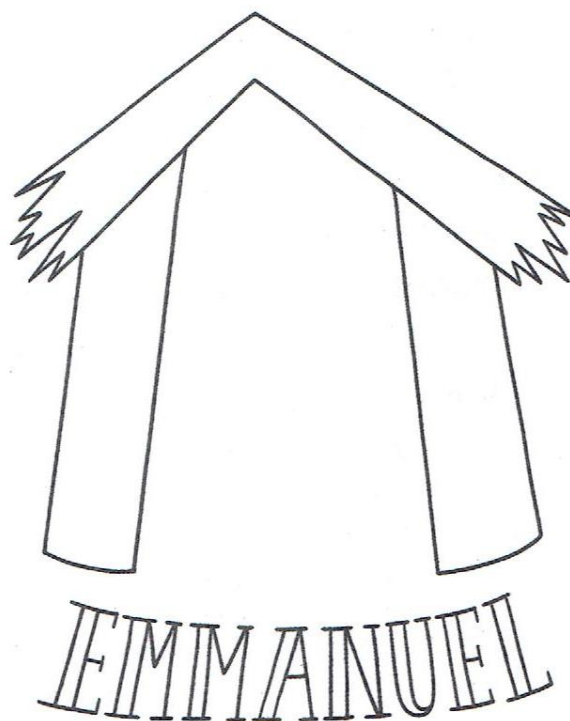
# Early Elementary Activity

## God is with Us Card (Art)

**Supplies:** Print out the God is with Us page. Use Markers, colors, or other items to decorate your card.

**SAY:** Print the God is with us page. You are going to make a special card for someone who brings you joy. Using markers, crayons, or paint, color the card. Fold and put a special picture and/or message. Share with someone who brings you joy!

God  
is with  
us



# **Older Elementary Activity**

## **Acting on Faith (Reflecting Activity)**

**Supplies: None**

**Say: In the Bible story, an angel asked Joseph to do something that was unexpected. It meant that Joseph had to have faith in what the angel was saying.**

**When have you been asked to do something on faith that you were uncertain about? Did you do what was asked of you? If so, how did you decide that it was the right thing to do?**



## Jesus' Birth Word Search

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

JESUS

ELIZABETH

SHEPHERDS

MARY

JOHN

INNKEEPER

JOSEPH

ZACHARIAS

ANGELS

GOD

GABRIEL

CAESAR AUGUSTUS