Children Celebrate!
Liturgy of the Word with Children

THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH • THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY •

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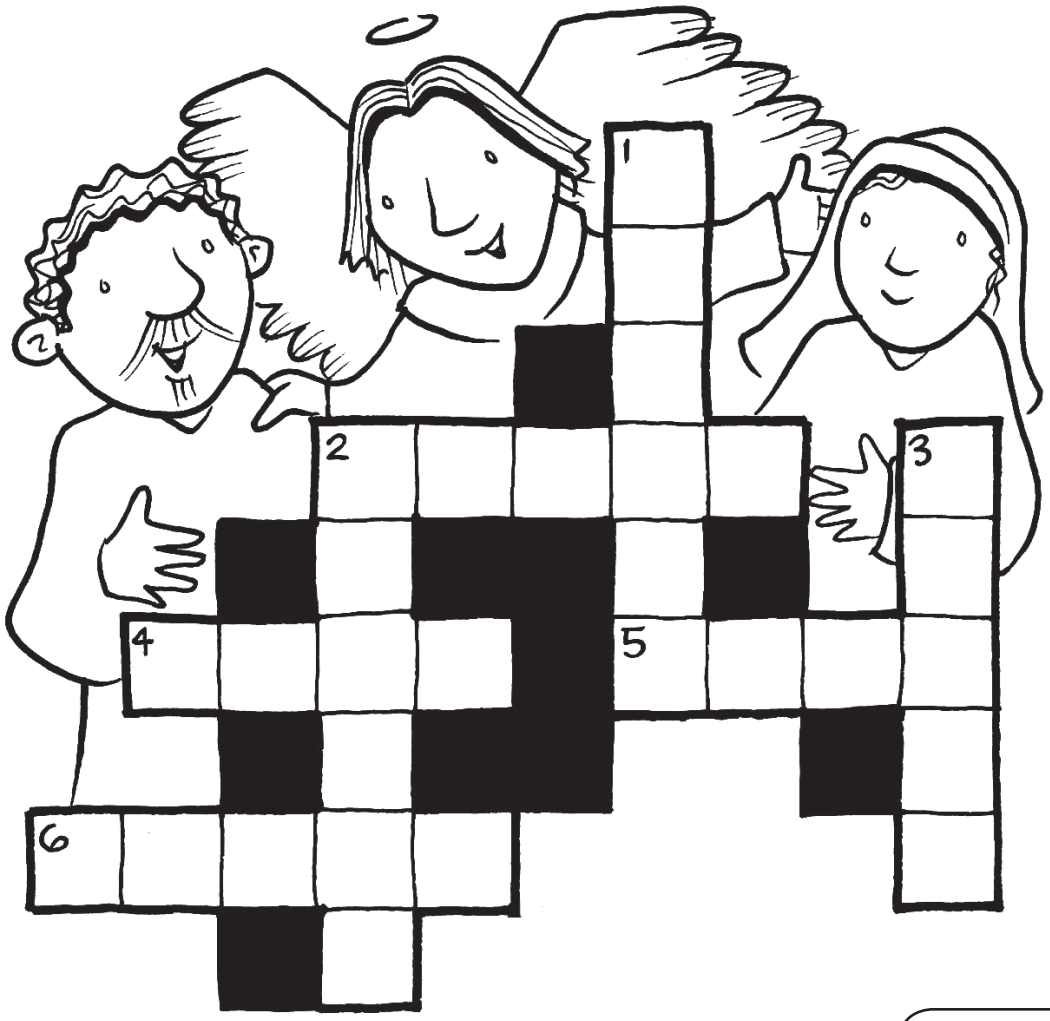
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

God's Message to Joseph

The answers to the puzzle clues are found in Matthew 1:18–25 (but try to complete the puzzle without looking!). Then read the Gospel passage to check your answers.



Across

2. Who appeared to Joseph? _____
4. Joseph's wife-to-be was _____.
5. Joseph decided to take Mary into his _____.
6. Joseph belonged to the family of _____.

Down

1. Who had a dream? _____
2. The angel told Joseph not to be _____.
3. The angel appeared in a _____.

Word Bank

David
angel
Joseph
afraid
home
dream
Mary

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Joseph Was a Loving Father

What are the qualities of a good father? Write them around the picture of Saint Joseph holding Baby Jesus. Then color the picture.

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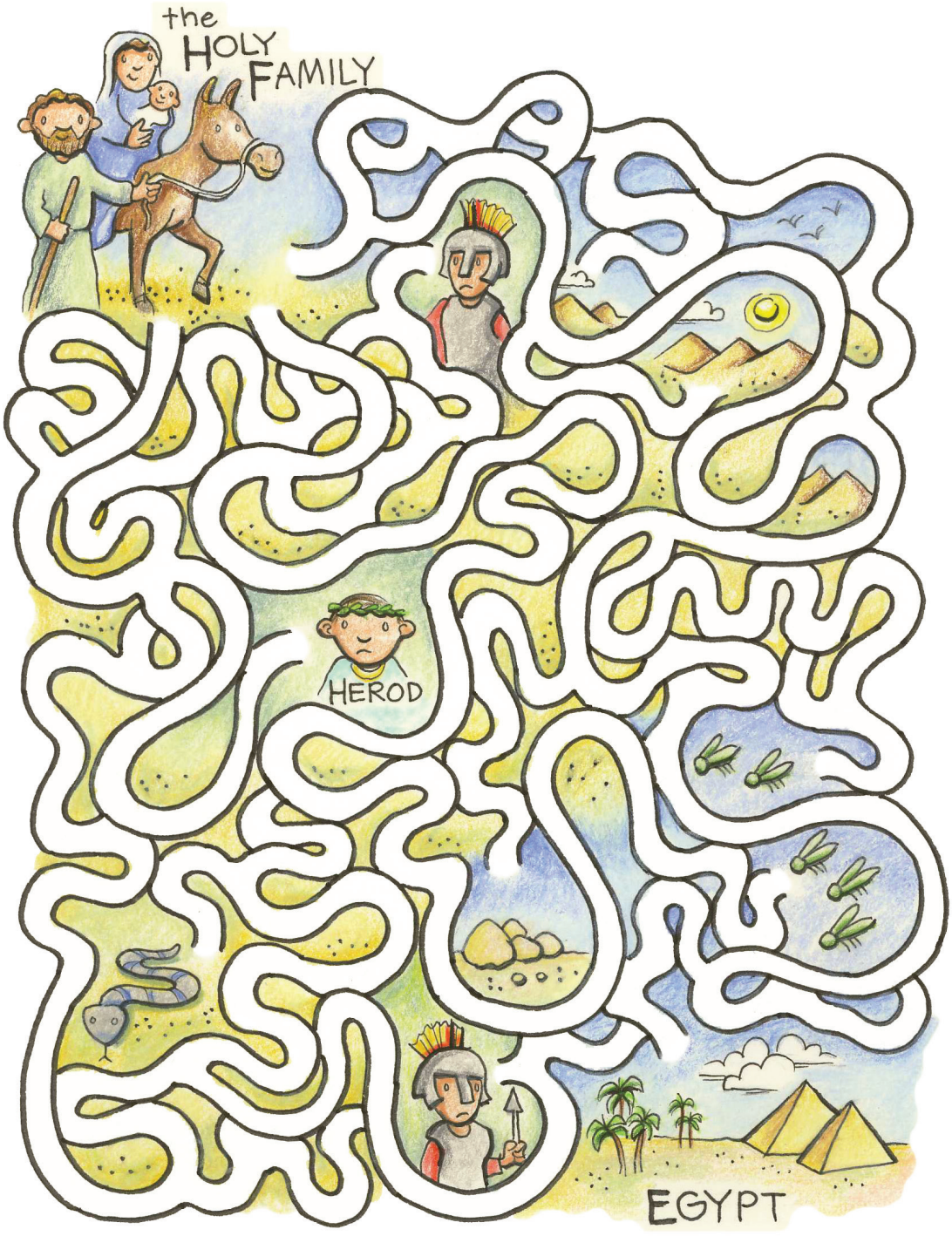
Joseph Led His Family to Safety

After the Magi had visited them in Bethlehem, an angel came to Joseph in a dream. The angel told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt where Jesus would be safe from King Herod. Solve the maze to guide the Holy Family to safety in Egypt.



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Learning About Saint Joseph

All that we know about Saint Joseph can be found in the first chapters of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Joseph was Mary's husband and the foster father of Jesus. He was a good, hardworking man who protected his wife and child. Saint Joseph is honored as the patron of many groups of people.

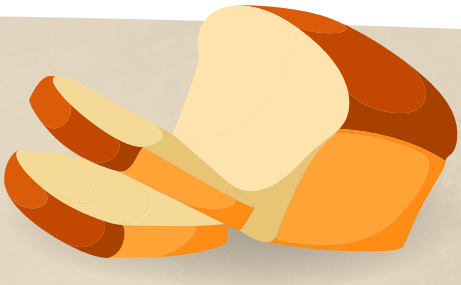
Find out which groups by putting an X through the squares on the grid that contain symbols or numbers.

The Church ✳ Families ✳ Workers ✳ Fathers ✳ The Dying ✳ The Poor

%	&	A	£	¢	L	L	O	$	F	!	T	^	H	E	#	S
~	E	G	@	(	(	R	^	O	5	U	8	6	P	#	S	2
O	&	F	5	%	P	8	E	$	O	P	+	?	L	@	E	!

Saint Joseph is the patron of _____ .

Sharing Bread



Long ago in Italy, a drought caused the crops to fail. People prayed to Saint Joseph, asking for rain. Their prayers were answered, and they celebrated with a great feast. It became the custom on Saint Joseph's Day (March 19) to prepare tables of food for the poor. Many Catholics still observe Saint Joseph's Day by baking special breads and sharing them with hungry people. Before your meal today, pray this prayer:

Almighty God, the food on this table reminds us of your many good gifts. Bless this food and all of us. May the prayers of Saint Joseph, who provided bread for your Son, help us on our journey toward your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

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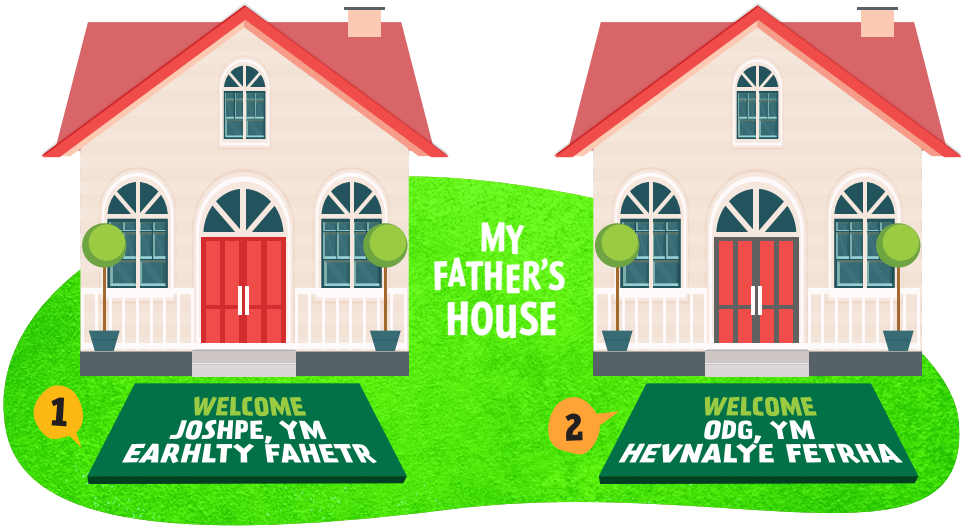
Joseph Worried About Jesus

When Jesus was twelve years old, he stayed in Jerusalem while his parents and other family members and friends left to return home to Nazareth. When Mary and Joseph realized that Jesus was not traveling with their group, they began to search for Jesus. After three days, they found him with the teachers in the Temple. Jesus was listening and asking questions. His parents were amazed. His mother said, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety" (Luke 2:46, 48).

Saint Joseph protected and loved Jesus as any good father loves his son. So, of course, Joseph was just as worried about Jesus being lost as Mary was. When they finally found Jesus, Mary and Joseph were both relieved and happy, but Jesus' explanation confused them. Jesus said, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49).

His father's house?

Did Joseph have two houses? **Unscramble the words inside these welcome mats to see whose house Jesus meant. Check the box next to the correct answer.**



☐ 1 _ _ _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ _ _ _ _

☐ 2 _ _ _ , _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ _ _ _ _

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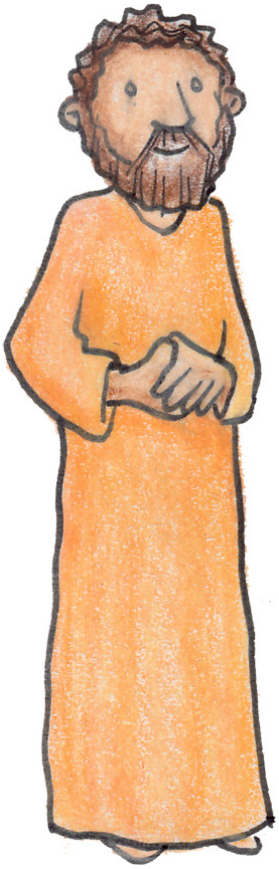
Joseph Was a Loving Husband

Notice in this Gospel reading how Joseph protected Mary's reputation.

"Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins' " (Matthew 1:18–21).



Joseph is described as a righteous, or just, man. Righteousness was one of his good qualities. Describe your finest personal quality.

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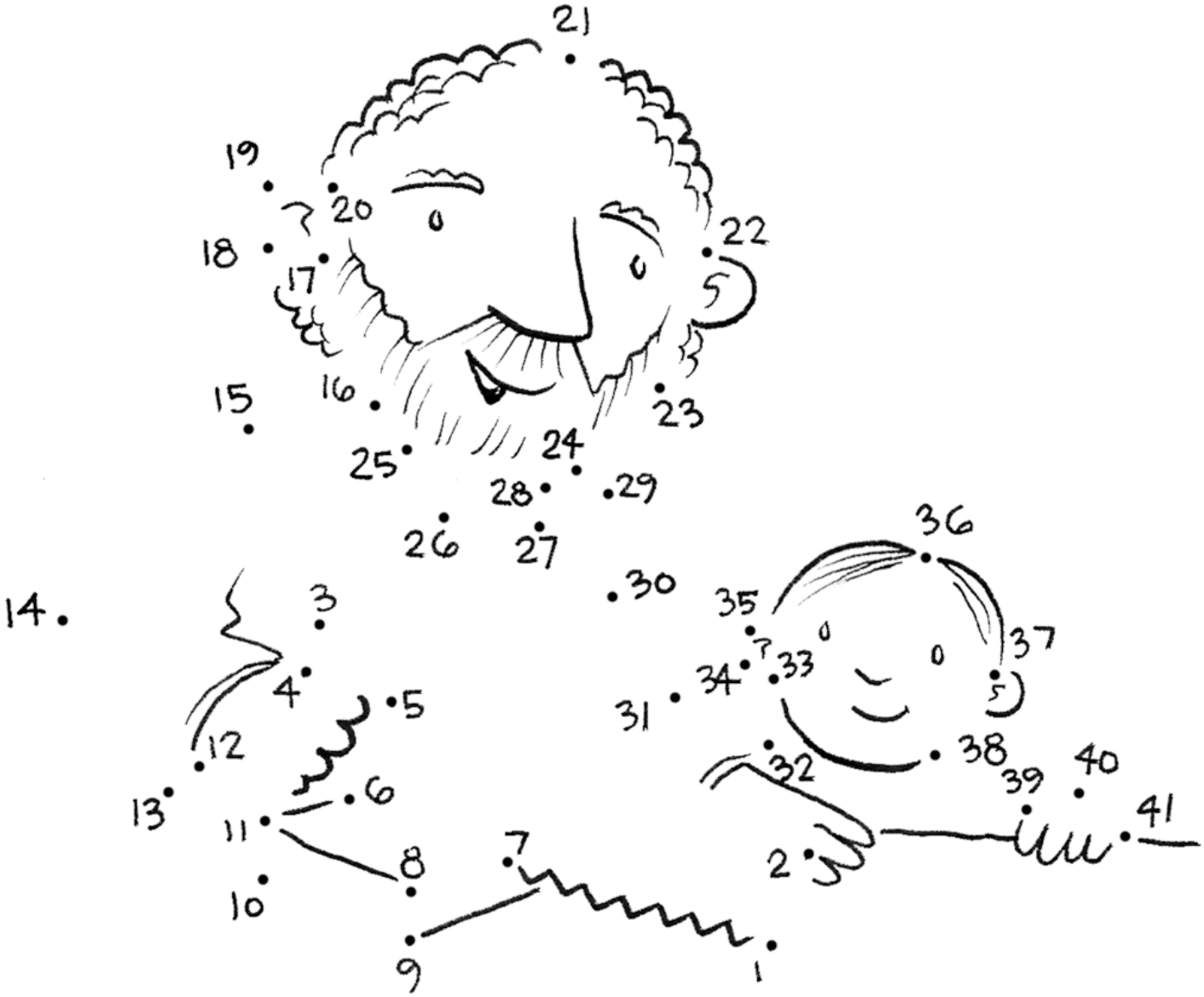
Joseph Taught Jesus

Joseph was a carpenter. He probably taught Jesus to be a carpenter too. He also taught Jesus how to serve God and others.



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Joseph Protected Mary and Jesus

Joseph loved Jesus' mother, Mary. He also loved Jesus like his own son. Even though Mary had to give birth to Jesus in a stable, Joseph did his best to care for and protect Mary and Baby Jesus.

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Joseph Was a Proud Father

Find Joseph in the two pictures. What feelings does his face show? How does he feel about Mary? How does he feel about his son, Jesus?

Find the six differences between the two pictures. Then enjoy coloring both pictures.

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