

UNIT 1: JOY • LESSON 2:

“Joseph’s Joy”

MATTHEW 1:18-24



With all my heart I glorify the
Lord! In the depths of who I
am I rejoice in
God my savior.
Luke 1:46-47

ADVENT:

The season of Advent is the 4 weeks before Christmas (Nov. 29-Dec. 24.) Each Sunday we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus and focus on a special word and light candles in our Advent wreath. Today we light the candles of HOPE & JOY. We explored hope last week, this week our word is **JOY**. Joy is a feeling of gratitude and happiness that fills you with delight.

BIBLE STORY:

In today's Bible story, we find Joseph in a tough position. His soon-to-be wife is pregnant. Now Joseph must make a decision to marry her or call off the engagement:



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 and name the baby, Jesus.” When he woke up, Joseph married Mary. When Mary gave birth to a son, Joseph named the baby Jesus. He was grateful to God for his new family and that he was chosen to be Jesus’ father.

Even though we might be going through a difficult time or situation, the Advent season invites us to slow down, accept, and see there is joy coming. Look for the joy around you that God already has provided.

Dear God,
Thank You for giving me joy in my life. I am grateful and that brings me joy. Help my family in good times and in tough times to find joy and to know that you always hear us and are always with us. Renew our joy during Advent.
Amen

WONDER QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

- What brings you joy?
- Was there joy in today's Bible story?
- How can you bring joy to someone at home?
- What do you dream about during the Christmas season?
- When you wake up, see if you can remember your dream. If you can, write it down like a story. Who was in it? What were they doing? Why do you think you had that dream?
- **If you haven't already, grab some paper - staple the pages together to make a booklet and create an Advent journal. Decorate the cover and write down things inside that make you feel HOPE and JOY each day.**

Joseph's Joy

Jesus' Other Name

CELEBRATE
WONDERTM
Session 2

Instructions

Fill in the spaces with words from the word bank. To discover Jesus' other name in our Bible story, write the letters that are in boxes on the lines at the bottom of the page.

There was a _____ _____ man
named Joseph.

He was engaged to be _____.

His fiancée's name was _____.

Joseph learned that Mary was going to have a _____.

Joseph had a dream of an _____ who told him
to marry Mary.

Joseph woke _____ and married Mary.

He named the baby _____.

The baby was God's gift to the _____ _____.

Word Bank

Jesus
Mary
angel
up
righteous
world
married
baby



Joseph's Joy


Another Name

Instructions

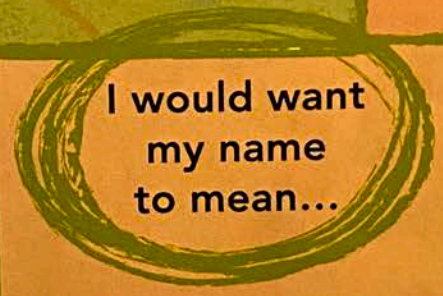
Jesus had another name with a special meaning, which is mentioned in our Bible story. If you could choose a meaningful name for yourself, what would it be? Answer the questions to explore your thoughts about a meaningful name.



New name



I would choose this name because...



I would want
my name
to mean...



Advent Wreath

Color a candle for the special days of Advent.

November 29 - HOPE

December 6 - JOY

December 13 - PEACE

December 20 - LOVE

December 24 - JESUS