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Joseph & Mary: Guided By God

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Introduction

Joseph and Mary, the parents of Jesus, are our heroes for the month. Joseph and Mary were guided by God during critical moments of their journey as the parents of Jesus. They were protected and kept in safety as they followed God's guidance.

Our lesson objectives for this week:

- Teach the children to identify some ways which God speaks to us.
- Teach the children to acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is the best guide.

Lesson Context:

- The story takes place after Jesus' birth.
- King Herod wanted to kill Jesus and gave an order to kill all the boys who were two years old or younger.
- Joseph and Mary were supernaturally guided by God to protect Jesus until the danger had passed.

Read in advance:

- Matthew 2:13-23

Memorize the Word:

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:105

This week's Declaration:

God guides my every step.

Words of the week:

Guide = to accompany, assist and give direction



Opening Activity:

Use the first letter of each child's name to ask them to identify an animal, food, place and colour starting with the first letter of their name.

Say: Today our hero's for the month are husband and wife, Joseph and Mary. We are going to see God guided both Joseph and Mary in a time of great difficulty.

Opening Prayer: (Let the children repeat after you) "Father God, thank You for a new day. I am ready to learn how to be guided by You. I love you Lord. In Jesus name. Amen."

Read the following scriptures



Matthew 2:13-15

After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt.”

Discussion points:

We see in the passage of scripture that God guided Joseph and Mary in a very tough situation. God guides us in many different ways:

- **Through the help of angels:** Sometimes God uses angels to help us know His direction. We do not pray to or ask angels for help. We always ask God.
  A hero knows that God can use angels to serve them.

- **Through dreams:** Joseph had a dream when he received the instruction from the Lord. Sometimes God speaks to His children through dreams.
  A hero knows that dreams are a language of God's Spirit.

- **Through His word:** God speaks to us as we daily read His word and we obey it. The Holy Spirit makes the word real to use as we read it.
  A hero is guided by the Spirit of God through His Word.

- **God protects us from harm:** Kind Herod wanted to destroy Jesus. Joseph and Mary were able to get to safety because they followed God's direction and guidance.

A hero knows that God's always guides them to a safe place.

Application:

Lead the children in prayer to seek to be guided by God in all decisions. Mention that they more they spend time with the Lord in His Word and prayer, the more they will get to hear God better as He leads them.

Pray: (let the children pray after you)
Father, thank You that You are my perfect guide. I do not need to feel lost or afraid. You are there to help and lead me in the right path. Thank You for guiding my every step. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Declare together:
God guides my every step.

Lead the kids into applying the blood of Jesus over themselves:

- By the blood of Jesus, I have been redeemed from the power of the enemy. The devil has no power over me.
- By the blood of Jesus, all my sins have been forgiven.
- By the blood of Jesus, I have been cleansed from my sins.
- By the blood of Jesus, I have been justified. God sees me as if I had never sinned.
- By the blood of Jesus, I have been sanctified and set apart for God. I will do great things for God on this earth.