

Mary and Joseph Take a Trip

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 13, ages 3-4

Lesson 13 Goal

- Your child will learn that Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem and stayed with the animals in a stable.

Key Points

- Before Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem.
- In Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph slept in a stable because there was no room in the inn.



Parent Reflection

When the long-awaited Messiah, the Son of God, finally came to earth, there was no place for him to be born. Perhaps this is because the circumstances of his birth are so different than what might have been anticipated for the Messiah: he wasn't expected to be born to a poor couple from Nazareth. Later, upon the prospect of meeting Jesus, one skeptical person even asked aloud, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:45).

It's been asked, if the Son of God came today instead of two thousand years ago, would there be a place for him to be born? Let us strive to make room for him in our own hearts, and allow each of our humble lives to show forth God's glory.

Reflection Question

Where have I seen God's glory in simple settings? Do I recognize him in the poor? What might I need to rearrange in my own life in order to "make room" for Christ?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- baby doll
- blanket

- shawl or robe (optional)
- Lesson 13 Activity Master – Saint Page (included with this lesson)

(Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Pray together: *“Thank you, God, for watching over Mary and Joseph. Take care of us, too. Amen.”*

Discovering

Riding to Bethlehem. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Joseph and Mary’s journey to Bethlehem.

Ask your child, “What do you think happens next in the story?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Find Your Way to Bethlehem. Turn to the drawing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child a crayon or colored pencil. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. Caring for Baby Jesus (Dramatic Play). Invite your child to dress up and play the part of Mary or Joseph, caring for baby Jesus. Supply a baby doll and a blanket for swaddling. Have your child retell the Christmas story in his or her own words.

3. The Communion of Saints: Our Lady of Guadalupe. Show your child the picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the Family Activity page and read about her. Then read more about Our Lady of Guadalupe to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child, “Do you have to see Mary to ask for her help?”

Have your child write and draw about Our Lady of Guadalupe using the Lesson 13 Activity Master.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

“Dear God, thank you for all the wonderful places we can go and see. Please help everyone who is traveling today to have a safe trip. Amen.”

Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Miracle of the Painting

The Virgin Mary, who was Jesus' mother, lived many years ago. We can ask her to pray for us and help us. We may be scared about a sick family member. Or we may not know how to solve a problem. Sometimes we just feel lonely.

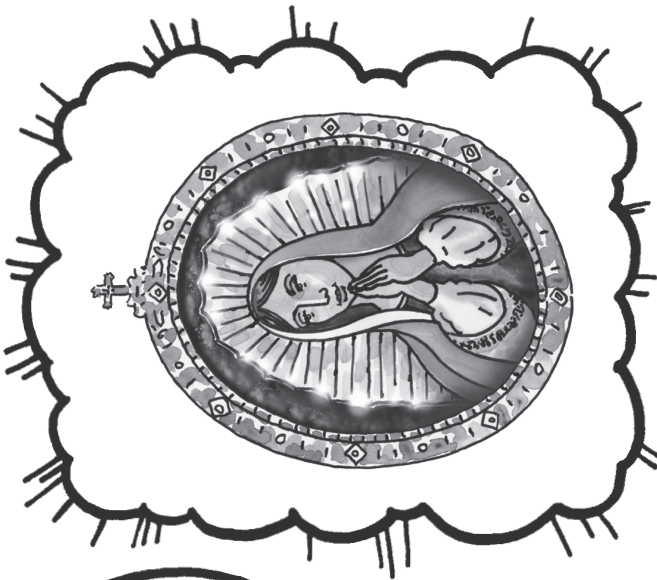
God wants us to know that he is always near us. He knew that Mary cared about people's feelings. And he knew that she loved God with all her heart. He decided that she would be the perfect mother for his special Son.

Even though Mary is in Heaven, we believe that she can still hear our prayers. Mary knew that people needed a special place where they could go to think about her, honor her, and ask her for help. So, many years after she went to Heaven—over a thousand years—Mary appeared to a man named Juan. She asked him to visit the bishop. She said that she would like a temple,

which is like a church, to be built in the place where she was standing. This was hard for the bishop to believe, so he sent Juan to ask Mary for a sign. He wanted proof that the Blessed Virgin Mary had come to his town, which was called Guadalupe.

Juan did not go to look for Mary right away, so she went to meet him on a different road. She said that she was "Holy Mary of Guadalupe," and told him to bring roses to the bishop as proof. Juan wrapped the roses in a black cloak and took them to the bishop. When he opened the cloak, the roses fell out and his cloak now glowed with a life-sized painting of the Virgin Mother! It was a miracle! The painting on the cloak is kept safe, even today, in the temple that Mary had asked for. Just as she wanted, people now have a special place to go to ask for her help.

DRAW



**Saint
Our Lady of
Guadalupe,
pray for us!**