

Topic- Advent

Read/watch/listen to the Christmas story up to the point when Mary and Joseph arrive at the stable. Focus on the role of **Joseph**.

<https://bustedhalo.com/ministry-resources/closer-look-st-joseph>

Create a timeline/journey for **Joseph** from when Mary first told him of the events of the Annunciation to their settling in at the stable.

For each point on the timeline, complete the following:

- What might Joseph be thinking?
- What might Joseph be feeling?
- What question(s) would you ask Joseph at this point?
- What might we learn from Joseph's actions?

Joseph's Life

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture. We know he was a carpenter, a working man, for the Nazarenes ask about Jesus,

"Is this not the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55).

He wasn't rich for when he took Jesus to the Temple, he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24).

Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. Luke and Matthew both mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38). Indeed the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as "son of David," a royal title used also for Jesus. We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He resolved to send her away quietly to not expose her to shame or cruelty.

However, when an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins," he did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:19-25).

At this time, the Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, made a law that everyone in the Roman Empire must pay tax. Everyone had to go back to the town that their family came from, to have their name put on the tax lists. Joseph came from Bethlehem, which was called "The City of David". Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem and she gave birth to the baby, Jesus, in a stable, because there was no room for them anywhere else.