

**Reflection for the Feast of the Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Ages 5-6

Matthew 2:13–15, 19–23

Invitation to Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

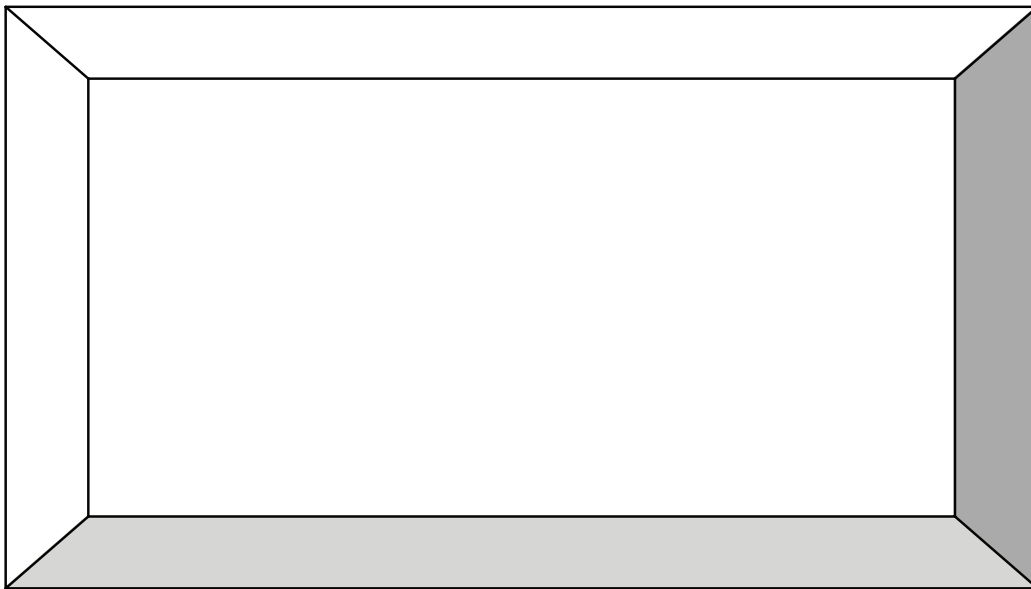
Listening



HOLY FAMILY
JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Loving

Draw a picture of your family in this space. Write your family's name under the picture.



THE _____ FAMILY

Reflection for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Your family belongs to Jesus.
Your family is a holy family.

Prayer

God, bless our families. Amen.

Living

- Hang your picture on the refrigerator or in your room at home. Every time you see it, ask God to bless your family.
- At meal time, during the week, have family members share one way each followed Jesus that day.
- The sign of Jesus' followers is the Sign of the Cross. We bless people with the Sign of the Cross. Make the Sign of the Cross on family members' foreheads as a blessing each day this week.

**Reflection for the Feast of the Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Ages 7-8

Matthew 2:13–15, 19–23

Invitation to Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Listening

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.

Matthew 2:13-15

Loving

- What did Joseph do to protect and take care of his family?
- Do you think Joseph wanted to go to Egypt?
- Do you think God used Joseph to protect the Holy Family?
- Name some ways God protects and takes care of you or your family through your father, mother or other family members.

Prayer

Thank you God, for the care and protection you give our families. Amen.

Living

- With your family members, talk about how your family takes care of each other. Share stories of how you have protected or cared for one another in the past.
- Show your family’s love and support of other families. Each night select two Christmas cards you received and pray for the families of those who sent them.

Reflection for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Ages 9-11

Matthew 2:13–15, 19–23

Invitation to Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Listening

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

Matthew 2:13-14, 19-23

Loving

Silently think about what Joseph did for his family by listening to God in dreams. Dreams are one way God speaks to us and guides us to right actions.

Can you think of other ways God guides us to right actions?

If you were Joseph and Mary how would you feel if you had to move far away from family and friends?

Can you think of sacrifices your family has made for the good or safety of one member?

Name a time you made a sacrifice for a family member when you did not want to, but you did because you knew it was the right thing to do.

Prayer

Lord we ask you to guide and care for our families. Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

Living

- Plan a gratitude evening with your family members. Tell each family member to come with a memory of one thing each has seen the other family members do to help or support another family member. Gather together and share your stories with each other. Express thanks to each other and serve refreshments.
- Pray for the safety of family members each time you gather for a meal this week.

Reflection for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Ages 12-14

Matthew 2:13–14, 19–23

Invitation to Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Listening

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

Matthew 2:13-14, 19-23

Loving

Quietly meditate on the following:

- An angel is a messenger of God. What kind of messages does God send families today?
- Joseph heard God’s message in a dream. How do you think families today hear God’s messages?
- The Holy Family had to travel quite a distance to avoid Herod and keep Jesus safe. What is the most difficult thing your family has had to do to keep all or some family members safe?

Silently think about what Joseph did for his family by listening to God in dreams. Think of something you will do to support or protect a family member.

Prayer

Lord we ask you to guide and care for our families. Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

Living

- Plan a gratitude evening with your family members. Tell each family member to come with a memory of one thing they have seen each of the other family members do to help or support another family member. Gather together and share your stories with each other. Express thanks to each other and serve refreshments.
- Pray for the safety of family members each time you gather for a meal this week.