

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **BEFORE** your children attend church. Because God's plan is for **parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers** of their children's faith, *we want YOU to be the one to introduce* this part of The Big God Story to them.

For additional support in spiritual parenting and to learn more about creating transforming environments in your home, be sure to pick up **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource** from your church or download at HomeFrontMag.com. You can also access the HomeFront app for your iPhone, iPad, or Android device.



2.2

GOD IS LOVE

Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 2:1–5

Joseph was confused about what he should do once he knew Mary was expecting a child. God is love, so He spoke to Joseph in a dream. After this, Joseph knew that everything they were experiencing was part of God's big plan! God's love gave Joseph and Mary the strength they needed throughout Mary's pregnancy and as they traveled to Bethlehem.

JUST FOR FUN

- Give your children some paper and markers and have them draw what they know to be true about God. Be sure to join them! Then, allow everyone to share what she has drawn. Read together **Matthew 1:18–25**. Ask your children, "What does this part of The Big God Story tell you about God?" Talk to them about how much God loved Joseph. God sent the angel to reassure Joseph and to give him the strength to do what was right. Remind your children that sending Jesus was the most important way that God shows His love to each of us.

Did You Know?

- Joseph and Mary were betrothed when they learned that Mary was carrying Jesus.
- A betrothal was a formal engagement that could only be broken with a divorce. When Joseph discovered Mary was pregnant, he considered divorcing her quietly so as to protect her reputation.
- An angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. This encounter gave Joseph the confidence to continue with his plans to wed Mary.
- Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem because they were to take part in a census that required them to register in Joseph's ancestral home.

Remember Verse

Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Isaiah 25:1

Your child is learning that God loves us and desires that we love Him and show His love to others. As a way of demonstrating God's love in her own life, encourage your child to perform an act of kindness for someone this week.

Teachable Moments

- How do you think Joseph felt after God spoke to him in his dream?
- How do you feel when you think about how much God loves you?
- What are some of the ways God shows His love to you?

Blessing

For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource**.

A blessing to pray over your child:
(Child's name), may you know God is love today and every day. May His great love bring you peace and joy.