

The Angel Appears to Joseph

Matthew 1:18-25

Teacher Preparation

Read background materials

<https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/article-understanding-the-virgin-birth-matthew01.pdf>

<https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/dbsn-4-17-the-lord-comes-into-the-world.pdf> (optional)

Introduction

Welcome the kids and ask them how they're doing.

Read

Read the story from Matthew 1:18-25

Discuss

1. Use the talk by the Rev. Chris Smith to discuss the virgin birth (see link, above) .
2. This is one of the most important doctrines of Christianity, and it's really important that kids understand that Jesus did not have a human father!
3. This is a tricky subject which many adults find difficult to understand—it is a miracle! Smith mentions the “father’s seed” etc., which you can say if you want. Or, you can talk about how it takes a Mom and a Dad to have a baby, and Mary wasn't married to Joseph yet, just engaged. Stress that Mary and Joseph didn't live together. So when Joseph found out that Mary was expecting a baby, he was very surprised. He might have been sad and maybe angry too. In those days, other people would have treated Mary badly if they thought she had a baby without being married, so Joseph wanted to hide her away to protect her. It may seem unkind to hide her away but Joseph was actually being kind. So when the angel told him that the baby was the Lord's, and it was a miracle, he believed the angel, and then he knew that he would take good care of Mary. He is a wonderful example of a kind, strong man. He did the right thing and was loving and protective of his wife and their very special Baby.

Project

- Use the project link on the following page (a Christmas card), or choose another Christmas project from <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org>.
- Have the kids colour the card parts first, and then help glue them together being very careful *not* to glue the section behind Joseph, Mary and the Baby Lord.

Supplies

- Copy of the Word
- Print out (or be able to show the pictures on a device) a selection of pictures illustrating the story:
 - https://filedn.com/ID0GfuMvTstXgqaJfpLL87S/sweet_images/jpg/40/40_Mt_01_03_RG.jpg
 - https://filedn.com/ID0GfuMvTstXgqaJfpLL87S/sweet_images/jpg/40/40_Mt_01_04_RG.jpg
 - https://filedn.com/ID0GfuMvTstXgqaJfpLL87S/sweet_images/jpg/40/40_Mt_01_05_RG.jpg
 - <https://www.goodsalt.com/details/lfwas1141.html>
 - <https://www.goodsalt.com/details/lfwas2478.html>
- Photocopied cards for the kids, with the lines cut.
 - <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/project-pop-up-crche-card-for-christmas-matthew02.pdf>
- Markers and crayons, etc.