

St. James Episcopal Church  
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!  
DECEMBER 18, 2016—THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
JOSEPH LISTENS TO GOD



*An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:*

*“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.*

Matthew 1:18-25

**BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME:  
THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS**

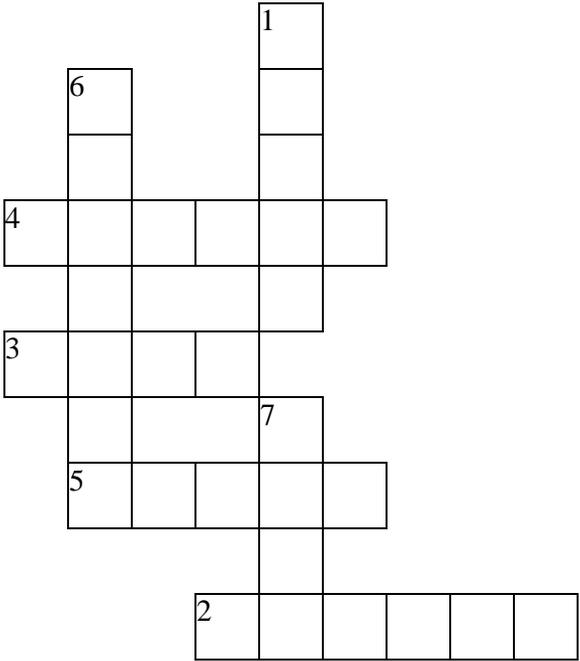
**Joseph Listens ~ Matthew 1:18-25**

Parents, it might be difficult to explain exactly what Joseph felt during this story—the anxiety he was facing, and the decision he had to make. Here are some ideas for conversations with your children about this story.

- Joseph was in a tough spot. He had to make an important decision. To make that decision he thought about how to act with kindness and compassion.
- Talk about difficult decisions that you have had to make. What did you do? To whom did you listen?
- An angel came to Joseph in a dream. This is a way in the bible that people hear from God. The angel told Joseph what God wanted him to do. Joseph listened, and acted as God wanted him to. Is that always easy? Why should we do as God wants us to?

**Did you know? Bible Trivia.**

- In the **Gospel of Luke**, the angel comes to Mary. In the **Gospel of Matthew**, the angel comes to Joseph. This way, we see the story through both Mary’s and Joseph’s eyes.
- The name **Jesus** comes from the Latin form of the Greek translation of the Hebrew name **Yeshua** or **Joshua** or **Jeshua**, which can be translated as “God saves”.
- Another name for Jesus is **Emmanuel** or **Immanuel**, a Hebrew name that means “God with us”.



**Across**

- 2 Jesus' earthly father
- 3 Jesus' mother
- 4 Not awake
- 5 Images you see when you are asleep

**Down**

- 1 God's Messenger
- 6 Male spouse
- 7 Angels head gear

Joseph, Mary, Asleep, Dream, Angel, Husband, Halo

**JUST A THOUGHT FOR PARENTS:** This is a stressful time of year. Kids have exams, semester projects due, and big performances. Parents have all the usual work along with preparing, cleaning, buying, making, wrapping, cooking, and planning. It can be difficult to remember why we do all these things, why we put all this work and planning into our Christmas celebrations. Try to take time to slow down and remember. Put some Christmas carols on, turn on the Christmas lights and sit with your family—even if for just a few minutes. Remember that we celebrate and share our love because of the incredible gift of love given to us at Christmas.