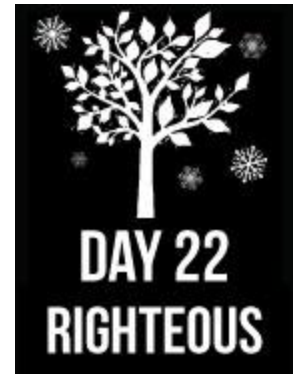


Jesse Tree

KIDS' DAILY DEVOTIONAL



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIS POINT IN GOD'S STORY?

Yesterday, we talked about Jesus' mother, Mary. She was humble. She told God she was His servant and would do whatever He asked of her.

Jesus is the son of God, but on while He was on earth in a human body, his earthly father was Joseph. We know from other verses that Joseph was a carpenter.

BIBLE READING

Matthew 1: 18-23

WHAT DO THOSE VERSES TELL US ABOUT GOD?

Joseph is called a righteous man. Essentially, this means that Joseph was a good man, someone who usually chose to do the right thing. Before the angel appeared to Joseph in his dream, he didn't really understand how or why Mary was going to have a baby when the two of them weren't married yet. The Bible gives us some insight into his good character by telling us that he planned to not embarrass Mary, but he thought he shouldn't marry her.

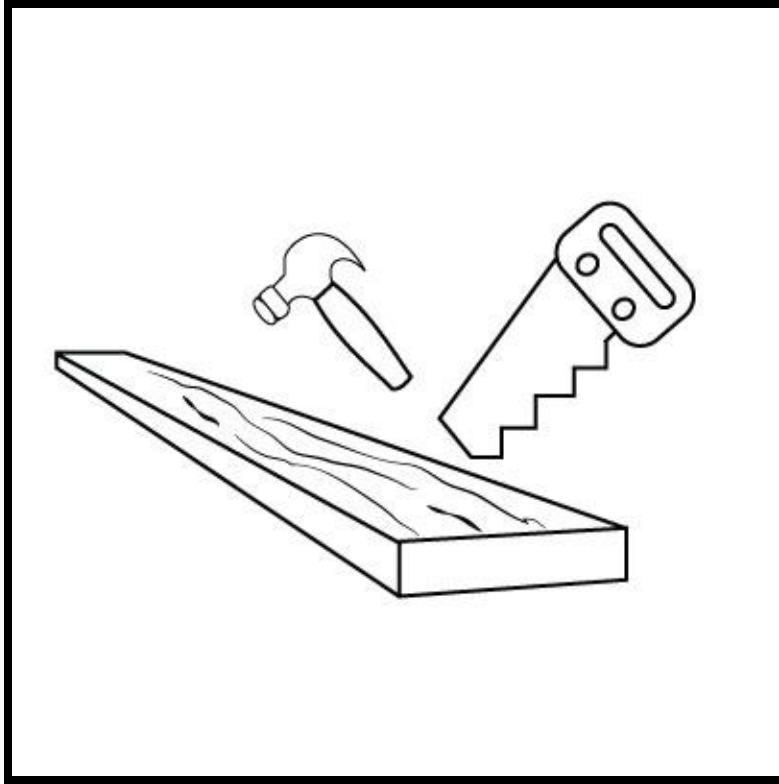
At the time that he was thinking all of this over, the angel appeared to him in a dream and to him that Mary was going to be the mother of God's son. Just like Mary, Joseph was willing to do whatever God asked of him. He did what God commanded and married Mary.

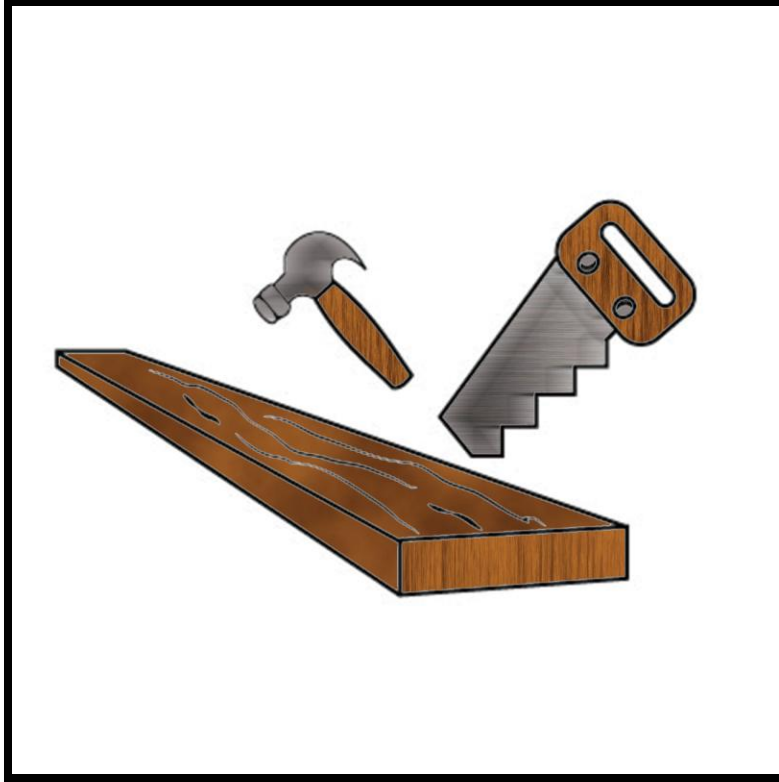
God continued to trust Joseph to do the right thing. After Jesus was born, angels talked to Joseph at least 2 more times telling him how to protect baby Jesus. Joseph always did what they said, even when that meant escaping to another country during the night.

It takes faith to trust in God and to believe in Jesus, and Joseph and Mary were among the very first people who needed to have faith that Jesus was God's son come to earth in a tiny, helpless baby body. They had to have a LOT of faith to believe that their tiny baby was the Savior, the Rescuer that God had promised. To believe that he was Emmanuel, or "God with us!" At the very first, he was just a tiny baby who needed to be cared for like any other tiny baby and God was TRUSTING them to be the ones to do that. They were people with servant hearts who were TRUST-WORTHY and FAITHFUL and did what God asked of them.

PRAYER

Dear God, Mary and Joseph both were people who loved you and followed you, even when you asked BIG things of them. Help me to be like them and to love you and follow you, too. Thank you for sending Jesus to be Emmanuel, God with us. In Jesus name we pray, amen!





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