

Advent: God Is with Us



St. Charles Catholic Church
Liturgy of the Word with Children
Family Reflection for
December 18, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Family Prayer:

Lord God, send your peace into the world and may your love fill our hearts and make us one with you and with each other. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-24

"Trust like Joseph."

Reflection:

This Sunday, we emphasize the importance of trust so that we might be guided by the voice of God. In today's Gospel, Joseph is asked to believe Mary and trust in what she is telling him. We hear how an angel's message changes Joseph's mind and convinces him that Mary's unborn child is a very special baby who needs his care and protection. In this scripture, we see more of the person Joseph. We see his generosity when he wants to divorce Mary quietly so that she will not be humiliated. We see his lineage when he is called the "Son of David," showing him as relative to King David. We see that he is obedient to what the angel has commanded him. Joseph, like Mary, has been chosen by God to be entrusted with God's Son, Jesus.

Even though Jesus Christ now lives in heaven, he is still with us. He is with us when we pray, through the sacraments, when we are happy or sad, when something good or not so good happens. Jesus is with us every day and everywhere. He saves us from our sins when we say we are sorry. He teaches us to be good disciples who put God first in our lives and help the poor.

Family activities:

1. A great way to combat negative thinking is to stuff your brain with your favorite scripture passages. Then, when doubts arise, instead of hearing "I can't," you'll hear, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13 or "The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts." Psalm 28:7. Here are other encouraging passages: "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." Proverbs 3:5. "Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7. "For God gave us a spirit not to fear but of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7. Pick a favorite passage to hide in your heart and lean on this week.
2. Whom can you bring the love of Christ to this week? Share a plate of Christmas cookies, a homemade card, or a friendly visit with the person.
3. Read a favorite Christmas story. Talk about your favorite parts and the lesson the story teaches. Watch *Mary and Joseph Bible Christmas Story for Kids*- Luke 2 from SharefaithKids.com -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ib2-uPGMpE>

Discuss these questions as a family:

1. Was God with the people when Jesus was born? How about now? Is God with us now?
2. How has God been with you during these four weeks of Advent?
3. Why is it important to hear Joseph's story in regard to Jesus' birth?
4. Name three things the angel said to Joseph.
5. What does the name Emmanuel mean? ("God is with us.")
6. How might you be able to show your complete trust in God's plan, as Joseph did?



An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She will have a Son, and you will name Him Jesus."