

## 2a Joseph's Story – Bible Story

Last week the angel Gabriel shared his announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. Mary was betrothed, or engaged, to Joseph when the angel spoke to her.

In Bible times, the father would arrange his daughter's marriage through a custom called betrothal, which was more binding than our modern practice of getting engaged.

After Gabriel's announcement to Mary, she went to Joseph and told him that she was going to have a baby. Then she shared Gabriel's message. Joseph was a righteous man who followed God, but he struggled to believe Mary's words.

According to the Jewish law at that time, Joseph should have divorced Mary when he found out she was going to have a baby. If he didn't divorce her, many people would not think he followed God's laws. Joseph cared for Mary, and he didn't want to humiliate her, so he decided to call off their engagement quietly.

While Joseph was struggling with the situation, an angel (probably Gabriel) appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

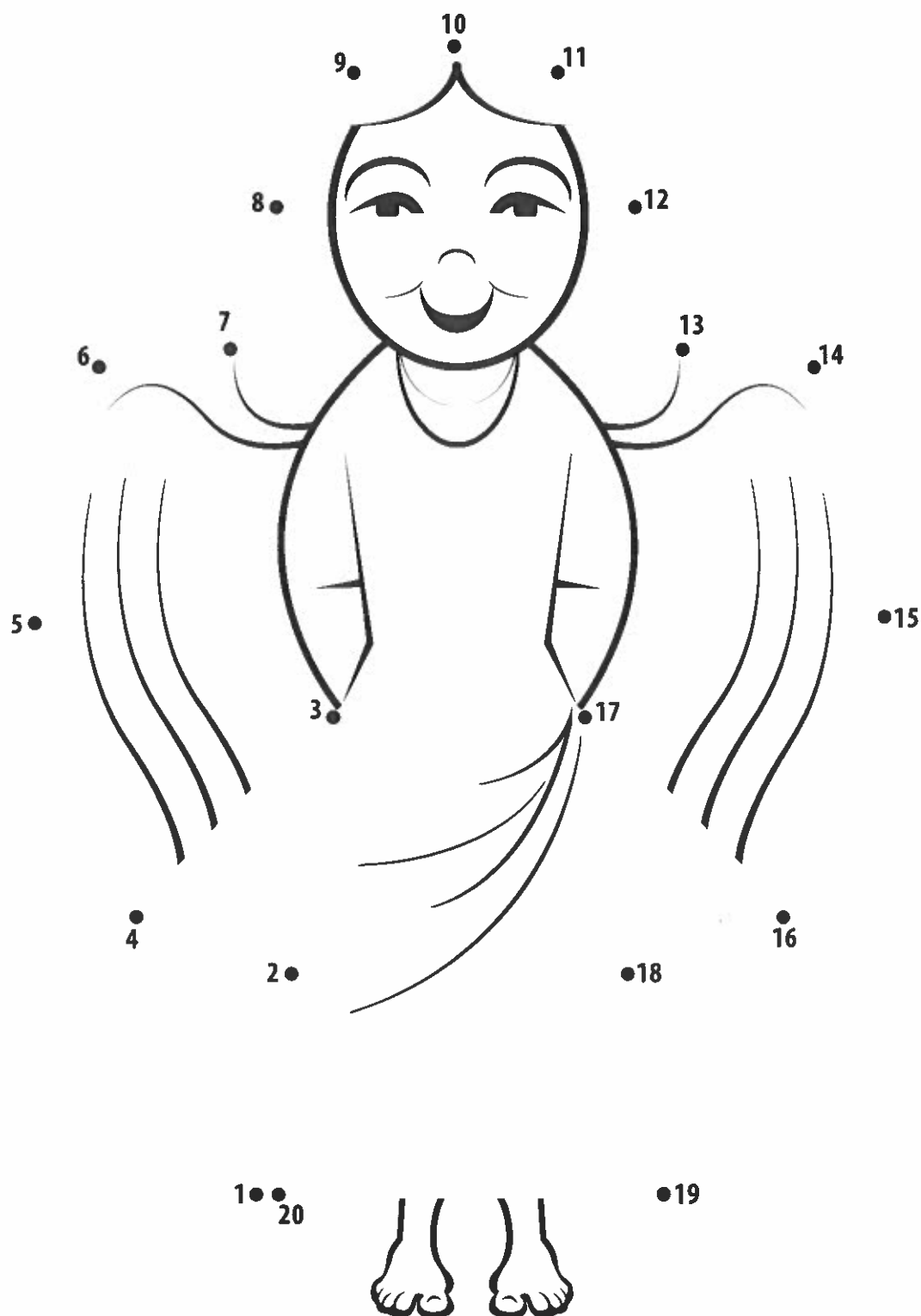
When Joseph woke up, he remembered the angel's words and did just what the angel commanded. He took Mary as his wife and cared for her until the baby was born. Joseph became Jesus' earthly father, and he loved Jesus as his own son.

(Based on Matthew 1:18-24)



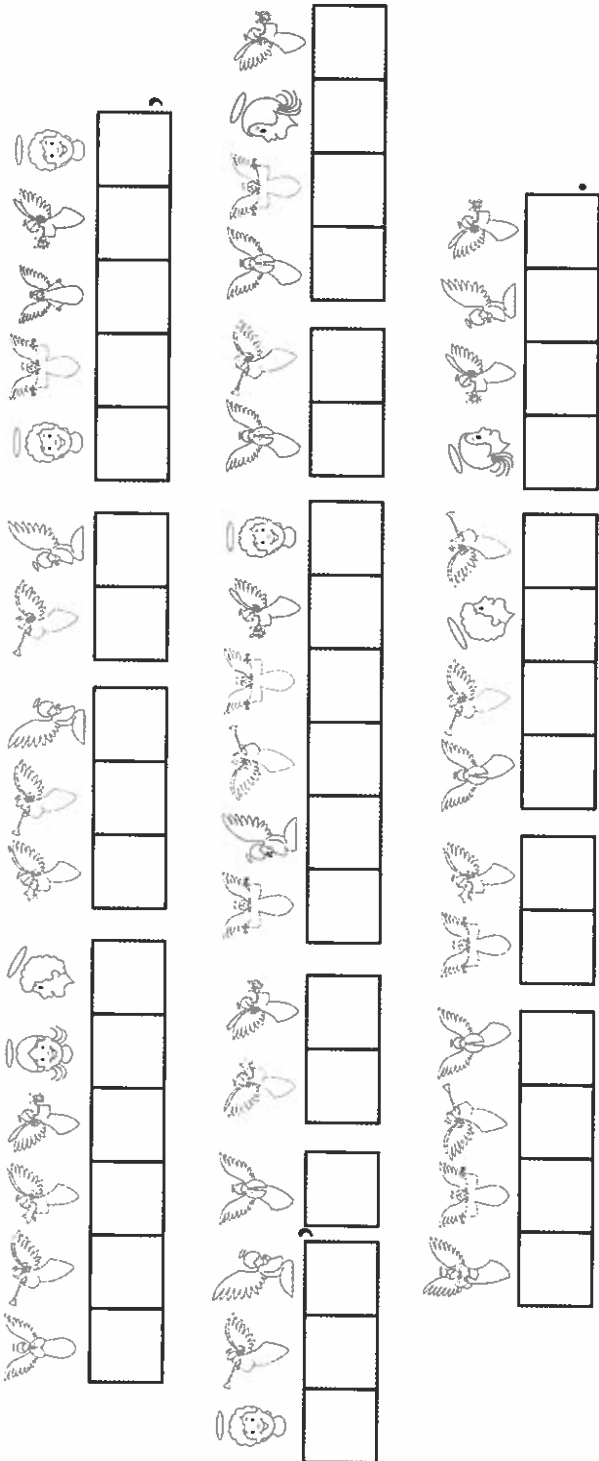
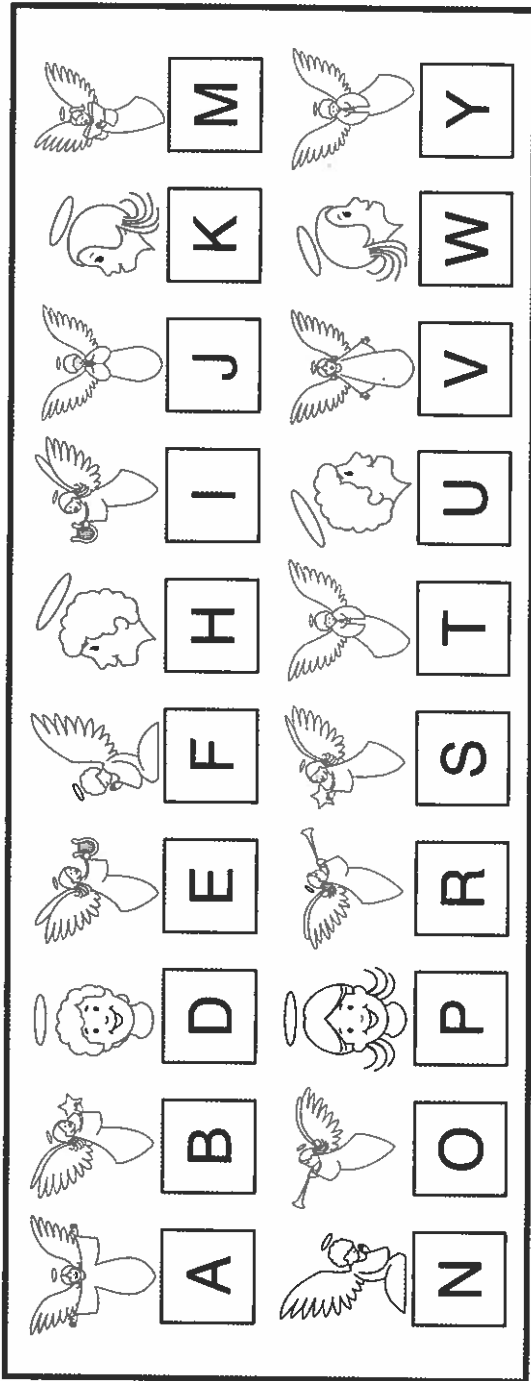
## Connect the Dots – Puzzle (Preschool)

Connect the dots in the picture. Start at 1 and go to 20. Then you will see what Joseph saw in his dream.



# 2c Angel Cryptogram – Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

Use the angel cryptogram to solve the puzzle. Then you will see what the angel told Joseph in the dream.



## Word Scramble – Puzzle (Older Elementary)

## 1. NGGDAEE

## 2. MADER

### 3. RAMEDIR

#### 4. AMYR

## 5. GENAL

## 6. SJSUE

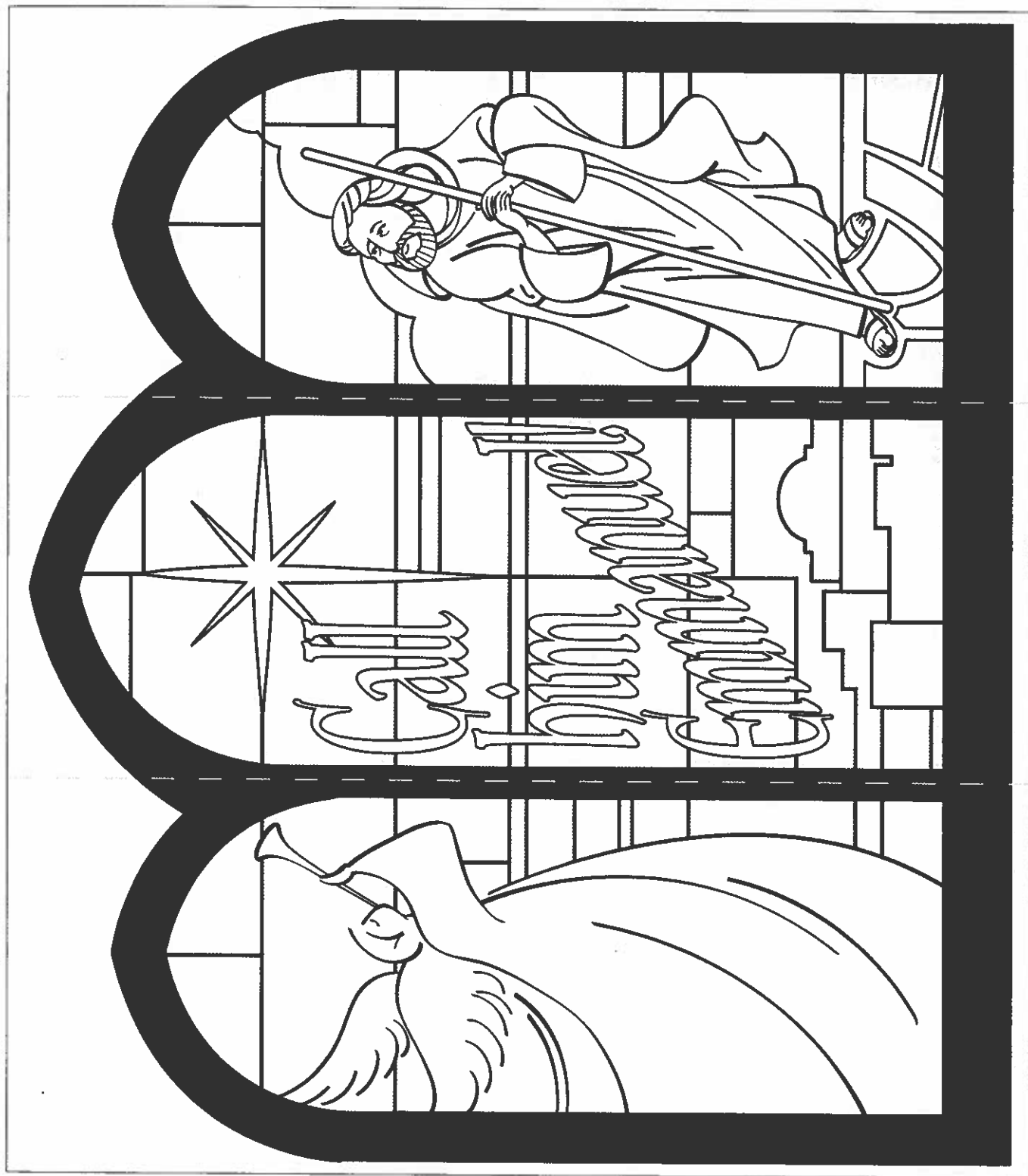
## 7. POSEJH

## 8. 110YTRHLSP

**BONUS: What name did the prophet Isaiah say Jesus would be called?**

**What does this name mean?** \_\_\_\_\_

## 2e Stained-glass Angel - Craft



# CHRISTMAS B I N G O

Bake Christmas goodies for neighbors	Decorate your house for Christmas	Shop for the Angel Tree	Go caroling at a nursing home	Secretly do something nice for someone in your family
Send a package to a deployed soldier	Donate clothes and toys in good shape to Goodwill	Read the Christmas story from the Bible as a family	Watch a classic Christmas movie	Buy wool socks and give them to homeless people
Listen to Christmas music	Write a letter to a grandparent	FREE	Drive around and look at Christmas lights	Make a Christmas gingerbread house
Help prepare and serve a family Christmas dinner	Ring the bell for the Salvation Army	Go to or take part in a Christmas program	Take part in a Christmas scavenger hunt	Go to a Christmas party
Send Christmas cards and pray for the people receiving the cards	Feed the birds and squirrels	Help pack and deliver food baskets	Help serve Christmas dinner at a rescue mission	Wrap Christmas presents



## 2g Loving God/Loving Neighbor – Faith Family Devotional

### Joseph's Story

**Matthew 1:18-24**

Joseph was engaged to Mary when he found out that she was going to have a baby. He was a righteous man, and he didn't want to humiliate Mary. So he decided to call off their engagement quietly. While he was thinking about what to do, an angel spoke to him in a dream. The angel told Joseph, "Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She will give birth to a son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and you will call him Jesus." When Joseph woke up, he did exactly what the angel had told him. Joseph took care of Mary and her baby, and he was a good father to Jesus.

### Verse of the Month

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people." Luke 2:10

### What Do You Think?

Why do you think God chose Joseph and Mary to take care of Jesus?

What amazing things has God done in your life?

### Family Activity

Talk about times when serving God was difficult for you.

Write messages in Christmas cards together as a family. Take the cards to church and give them out to the people in your faith community.

### Prayer

Dear God, thank you for showing us Joseph's servant spirit. Help us learn to say yes immediately when you ask us to serve; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.