

Year B, Week 4

Text: Matt 1:18-24

Idea: Joseph and angel/ Get Ready

Hymn suggestion: Away in a Manger

Items Needed: a Joseph, an angel, a Mary

We've been learning that Advent is a time to get ready for Jesus. The prophet Isaiah told the Israelites to get ready for the savior. Jesus told his disciples to get ready for his return. John the Baptist told his followers to get ready for the one who would follow him.

Today, we'll learn about an angel who told Joseph to get ready for Jesus.

Joseph and Mary were engaged to be married. But people learned that Mary was already expecting a baby!

Joseph decided to quietly end their engagement. Some versions of the Bible say he wanted to end their marriage. At this time, being engaged was almost as serious as being married. He didn't want to embarrass Mary, but he didn't want to marry her, either, since she was already pregnant.

After he had decided on this plan, however, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. (*Lay down Joseph figure and add an angel.*)

The angel said, "Joseph, don't be afraid to make Mary your wife. Her baby is from God! She's going to have a boy, and you should name him Jesus. This boy will save people from their sins."

These words were very much like words that Isaiah had spoken to the Israelites. He told them that a young woman would become pregnant and have a son. He told them that the baby would be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

When Joseph woke up (*remove angel and stand Joseph up*), he did what the angel said. He and Mary got married. (*Add Mary.*)

Questions without Response:

- I wonder ... how Joseph felt before the dream?
- I wonder ... how Joseph felt after his dream?
- I wonder ... how Joseph got ready to welcome Jesus?
- I wonder ... how we can get ready to welcome Jesus?