



St. Joseph
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Biblical Figure

Jesus was the Son of God, but He needed someone to protect Him and take care of Him when He was a little boy. God the Father chose St. Joseph to be Jesus's protector and watch over Jesus's mother, Mary, because Joseph was a good man.

Joseph and Mary were engaged to be married when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she was to be the mother of God. When Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant, he did not believe that the baby was God's Son. But because Joseph was a good man, he decided to break his engagement with Mary quietly and not let anyone know what had happened.

One night, while Joseph was sleeping, an angel of God appeared to him in a dream. The angel told Joseph that Mary's baby was conceived by the Holy Spirit and that Joseph was to name the baby Jesus. Overjoyed, Joseph took Mary into his home and watched over her as her husband. He now knew that he had an important responsibility: he was to love and protect the Messiah, the Chosen One of God.

Then the Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus declared a census (which means that everyone had to be counted so that the emperor would know how many people he ruled over). Joseph was from Bethlehem, so he and Mary had to travel there to be counted. Joseph was worried. Mary was ready to give birth. What if she gave birth on the road? How was he to take care of her?

They made the long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, but, to Joseph's dismay, all the inns in Bethlehem were full, and they had nowhere to rest. But Joseph did not give up. He knew that God the Father would help him take care of Mary and the baby. He took Mary to a stable, and there she gave birth to Jesus. Joseph's heart filled with love as he gazed on the baby in the manger.

Soon after, an angel again came to Joseph in a dream. This time, the angel gave a warning: King Herod wanted to kill Jesus, and so Joseph must flee to Egypt. Joseph's heart grew heavy. How was he to take care of Jesus and Mary in Egypt, so far away from home? But, once again, he knew that God the Father would help him. The Holy Family fled to Egypt and lived there under Joseph's watchful care. They returned to Nazareth when King Herod had died and the angel told Joseph it was safe. There Joseph worked hard and took care of Jesus and Mary. He played with Jesus when He was little, and he watched Jesus grow up. Every day Joseph counted himself blessed to live with Jesus and Mary. St. Joseph, please watch over me!