



## A Father Who Points to THE FATHER

Join us this Father's Day as we look at the often-overlooked life of Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. Learn how ordinary men can leave an extraordinary legacy by pointing their families and others to the perfect Heavenly Father..

### beourguest

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### teachingnotes

\* All Scripture is from the CSB (Christian Standard Bible).

On this **Father's Day** we take an unusual focus, on **Joseph**, the step-father of Jesus. Joseph's greatest achievement was not that he raised the Son of God perfectly. His greatest achievement was that he faithfully pointed Jesus and his family to God the Father. And that's what every father, grandfather, and every man with influence is called to do—to point others to THE FATHER.

Finding out his future wife was pregnant and thinking his future wife had been unfaithful, Joseph was going to release her from their marriage contract that their parents had agreed on. That's what Joseph was wrestling with.

#### HUMBLE & OBEDIENT

##### Matthew 1:20-21

But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, **don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife**, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and **you are to name him Jesus**, because he will save his people from their sins."

##### Matthew 1:24-25

When **Joseph** woke up, **he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him**. He married her but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And **he named him Jesus**.

Joseph was **humble & obedient**. Every time God spoke, Joseph obeyed. He didn't argue. He didn't delay. He didn't delegate his responsibility to someone else. He got up and led his family.

Further, Joseph is **patient** to wait for several months after his marriage to be intimate with his wife. Contrary to what Roman Catholics are taught, Joseph and Mary did later have sexual relations which led to other children (Mt 13:55-56).

The official naming of the child was 8 days after the birth of Jesus, Joseph circumcised the baby (Lk 2:21), as the Scriptures command (Gen 17:11-12, Lev 12:3). This did not occur at the temple, and could have happened in Bethlehem, maybe even by Joseph. It's then that Joseph officially named him Jesus (Yeshua - Yahweh saves), just as he had been commanded (Mt 1:21).

After this, according to the law, the woman must wait 33 days until she is purified from her bleeding after birth (Lev 12:4) before she can go to the temple and participate in a cleansing ritual (burnt offering & sin offering) and she will be considered "clean from her flow of blood" (Lev 12:6-7). It's then that Joseph & Mary brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem **to dedicate Him to the Lord**, and offer the sacrifice on behalf of Mary (Lk 2:21-24)!

➤ Joseph was **HUMBLE & OBEDIENT** to what God said, through the angel and through the Scriptures.

#### PROVIDE & PROTECT

##### Matthew 2:13-15

...an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up! **Take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt**, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to kill him." So **he got up, took the child and his mother** during the night, and **escaped to Egypt**. He stayed there until Herod's death...

During the time in Egypt, Joseph certainly would have found work to do to **provide** for his family. And when an angel gave him the go ahead after Herod died, Joseph brought his young family back to Israel and settled in Nazareth, as directed (Mt 2:19-23).

It is Nazareth that grown-up Jesus is later referred to as "**the carpenter's son**" (Mt 13:55). These carpenters were also stone workers.

## SPIRITUAL LEADER

Luke 2:41a

**Every year his parents** traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival.

Joseph was the primary bread-winner, but Joseph didn't ship his wife off with the children for spiritual trips & training. **Joseph LED his family.** Of course, isn't that what you would expect - since God the FATHER chose Joseph to point Jesus and his siblings to THE FATHER?

❓ Fathers and grandfathers, men who have influence over others - isn't this what God expects of US - to LEAD our families to KNOW the One True God?

Luke 2:51-52

Then **he** went down with them and came to Nazareth and **was obedient to them.** His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

Joseph didn't leave all the training up to Momma. They worked together as a team to help Jesus & His siblings grow in wisdom, grow in physical stature, and grow to love God and love people.

➤ Joseph was a **SPIRITUAL LEADER** to his family.

- This mention of Joseph is the last in the Scriptures. It is surmised that Joseph died sometime before Jesus began His ministry at 30 years old. When Jesus spoke from the cross, telling his disciple to look after Mary like his own mother it is obvious that Joseph isn't there to take care of her at this point.

This means that Jesus' first taste of human suffering likely took place well before the cross, but was experienced when His earthly father passed away before Jesus was 30 years old. The Lord Jesus experienced the loss of close loved ones too.

† **Joseph's name may fade from the pages of Scripture, but his influence lived on in the life of Jesus.**

*Isn't that what every father should desire; to leave behind children and grandchildren who love Jesus?*

- Joseph's calling was never to replace the Heavenly Father. His calling was to *point to Him*. Every earthly father, including Joseph, is imperfect.
- But **there is a perfect FATHER** who never abandons His children, never stops loving them, never breaks His promises, and gave His own Son so that we could become His sons and daughters. Joseph pointed his family to that FATHER.



➤ **Show & Tell, "I love you!"** to your family and others you influence. Model what it means to LOVE your spouse & family.

➤ **PRAY FOR** your children, and for your leadership to them.

➤ **PRAY WITH** your children. *Let their hero call out to his HERO!*

➤ **TALK about God's goodness in your home.** *Let your family HEAR about your love for Jesus!*

➤ **READ the Scriptures and SHARE what God is teaching YOU!**

➤ **LEAD your family to a healthy faith family!** *Our children should see our relationships with believers & say, "I want some of THAT!"*

† Your children will probably follow **YOUR EXAMPLE** with their children. What kind of **EXAMPLE** are you setting for your GRANDCHILDREN & the next generation?

## heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Derek & Emily Beaty** (813-763-4421), or **Chris & Caitlin Day** (850-673-7920), **Glen & Margie Peacock** (850-464-1484).

# Discussion questions

These questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your family, friends, or small group.

1. What characteristics of Joseph stand out most to you—his humility and obedience, his provision and protection, or his spiritual leadership? Why?
2. How did your father or another influential person shape your understanding of God the Father?
3. Read [Matthew 1:20–25](#). What does Joseph's immediate obedience teach us about trusting God even when His plans are unexpected?
4. Read [Matthew 2:13–15](#). How did Joseph demonstrate both protection and provision for his family?
5. According to [Luke 2:41–52](#), what evidence do we see that Joseph and Mary intentionally nurtured Jesus spiritually?
6. Which of the "Feet2Faith" applications challenged or encouraged you the most?
7. Why is it dangerous to expect children or grandchildren to become what we are unwilling to model ourselves?
8. What practical steps can parents, grandparents, or other spiritual mentors take this week to point the next generation to God the Father?
9. How does knowing that Jesus experienced the death of His earthly father encourage those who have lost a parent?
10. In what ways does the perfect love of our Heavenly Father bring healing to those who did not experience a loving earthly father?