

The Angel Visits Joseph

(Matthew 1:18-25)

We have been talking about Grace and Truth. I can think of a couple examples of times when accepting the truth can be very hard, but still might be the right thing to do. Maybe a friend needs to tell you that you hurt his feelings. Or, maybe your dad got a new job and you need to move away. Truths like these can be very hard to accept, but we have to remember that when we accept it we should accept it with grace.

In today's Bible story, we will meet Joseph, Jesus' father on earth. Joseph had a choice to make - whether or not to accept God's Grace and truth and follow God's plan. It was hard to accept that truth and say yes to God, but because He said yes, the best gift ever was born in Bethlehem. Let's check it out.

For today's story we need someone to play Joseph and someone to play the Angel.

(Choose 2 volunteers.)

Mary was going to be getting married soon to a man named Joseph. Later Joseph found out that she was going to have a baby. He did not know what to do. (Joseph, pace back and forth like you are not sure what to do.) He loved God and Mary very much.

While Joseph continued to think about what to do, he fell asleep. (Joseph, go to sleep.) While he was sleeping, he received a special visitor. (Stay asleep because you are about to have a visitor you in your dreams.) Who do you think it was? The angel. (Come on out, Angel.) The angel had a message for Joseph from God.

(Angel, can you read the message from God?) The angel said, **“Do not be afraid to stay with Mary. Get married to her. God has given her**

this baby. When the baby is born, name Him Jesus. He is going to help people go to heaven.”

When Joseph woke up he had a choice.

(Joseph, wake up.) He could stick with his first plan or obey the new plan God gave him.

What do you think he chose to do? He accepted God's truth with grace and obeyed God. He got married to Mary and when the baby was born, he and Mary named Him Jesus.

Joseph was faced with some difficult truth but he accepted truth with grace and said yes.

God wants us to accept His truth with grace and extend that grace to others too.