

Mary and Joseph Return

I wrote this story

Last week, we learned about King Herod and how he had tried to trick the wise men. He sent them off to Bethlehem to look for the Savior. He instructed them to “Look carefully for the child. When you find him, come tell me so I can worship him too.”

But we all know that King Herod didn't really want to worship Jesus, did he? No, he wanted to kill Him.

Why did King Herod want to kill Jesus?
Because he wanted to be the only king.

Did the King's plan work? No, why not?
Because God was taking care of Jesus and His family.

The angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream and spoke. “Get up! Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt, because Herod

is starting to look for the child so he can kill him. Stay in Egypt until I tell you to return.”

And that is exactly what Joseph did. In the middle of the night, he took Mary and Baby Jesus and escaped into Egypt. And that is where they stayed until God told them to return.

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After Herod died, an angel of the Lord spoke to Joseph in a dream while he was in Egypt. The angel said, Get up! Take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel because the people who were trying to kill the child are now dead.”

So once again, Joseph took the child and his mother and went to Israel. But Joseph soon learned that King Herod’s son had taken his place as the king of Judea.

When he heard this news, he was afraid to go there. So he went to Galilee, to a town called Nazareth, and lived there.

After Mary and Joseph and little Jesus returned to Galilee, Jesus spent His childhood like many other little boys. The Bible says in Luke 2:40 “And the Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him.

In Matthew 13:55 we are told that Joseph was a carpenter and in Mark 6:3 we are told that Jesus was a carpenter too. So, who do you think taught Jesus how to use a saw and a hammer and nails? That’s right, it was probably Joseph.

Although Joseph was not Jesus’ real father, it sounds like he was an awfully good father to Him.

You know there are many different circumstances that decide what type of a family we have. Some children live with both their real mom and dad, some children live with just a mom, some with just a dad, some with a stepmom or dad.

But whatever type of family God has given us, we should ALWAYS make the best of it. Jesus didn't live with His real father, but Joseph stepped in and took care of Jesus and loved Him just as if He was his real son. In fact, he loved Him so much and treated Him so special that very few people knew that Joseph was not the real father of Jesus.

Jesus and His family had lots of fun times together. In fact, each year Jesus and His family took a little trip to Jerusalem. They would go to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Passover.

One year when Jesus was 12 years old, he and his family made the journey to Jerusalem. They were having lots of fun. The celebration lasted for several days and when it was over, everyone began to travel back to their homes.

A huge caravan of people was all traveling together. Mary and Joseph thought that Jesus was in the caravan. Perhaps he was with some of His friends or relatives.

But when the group stopped to rest for the night, Mary and Joseph could not find Jesus ANYWHERE. They began to ask the people “Have you seen Jesus?”, “Is Jesus with you?” “Do you know where Jesus is?” But no one has seen Jesus all day long.

Can you imagine being in a huge crowd of people and trying to find one little boy. They must have been extremely worried.

After checking everywhere and asking everyone if they had seen Jesus, they knew that He was not with the caravan. They would have to return to Jerusalem. They had no other options. They had to find their little boy.

Mary and Joseph had to travel all the way back to Jerusalem... a whole day’s journey, looking for Jesus.

After three long days.... they found Him. He was in the temple, sitting right in the middle of the teachers. He was having a great time listening to them and asking them questions. In

fact, He was having so much fun that He hadn't even missed His parents.

Everyone that heard Jesus speak were amazed at His understanding and His answers. Why He knew the scriptures as well as they did.

When Mary saw Jesus, she said to Him, "Son why have You treated us this way? Behold your father and I have been anxiously looking for You?"

And Jesus said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?"

Now how do you think your mother would respond if you were missing for three whole days?

What do you think she would say to you when she found you?

Although Jesus was having a wonderful time in Jerusalem, He did not argue with His parents.

He simply got up and went with His mother and father back to Nazareth.

Although Jesus was the Son of God, He never acted as if He was better than anyone else. He ALWAYS respected and obeyed His parents.

The Bible tells us that Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

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Game

Play Hide and Seek