

Assembly: St Joseph



LEADER'S NOTES & HOLDING SLIDE

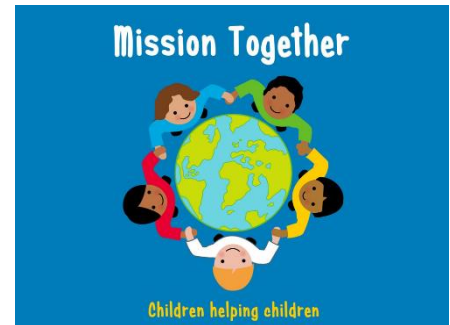
As Christians, we all have a mission: to share God's love with the whole world. No one is too young or too small to take part. Through Mission Together, children everywhere pray for and share with one another in a unique exchange of love and friendship.

By praying for one another and sharing what we have, we belong to God's worldwide family.

This assembly focuses on St Joseph, the husband of Our Lady and foster father to Jesus. It reveals how Joseph fulfilled his mission to love God and serve others, and how by following his example, children can become missionaries of God's love, too

The assembly contains Scripture, adapted for children to read. These Scriptures have been added at the end of these notes to print for readers.

This assembly contains animations. It is advisable you run through the presentation, using the slides, before delivering the assembly.



SLIDE TWO

In today's assembly we are going to find out more about a man who was very important to Jesus. There's a picture of him on the screen, holding the hand of the child Jesus.

Can anyone guess who this man is?

Answer: St Joseph.

Does anyone know anything about him?

Possible answers: The husband of Mary, the foster father of Jesus.

St Joseph was a very important figure in the life of Jesus, but we know very little about him. In the Bible there are no recorded words spoken by St Joseph. Not one!

[Click to reveal images.](#)

But the Bible does tell us that Joseph was Mary's husband and Jesus' foster father; that he worked as a carpenter and was humble, and not wealthy, and that one of his great, great ancestors was King David (that is the same David who killed the giant Goliath with a stone).



Thousands of schools and parishes around the world are named after St Joseph (*like the one shown on screen*). And there are several countries (Mexico, Canada, Belgium) that have Joseph as their patron saint.

Let's find out five facts about St Joseph that could help us become saints too!

It is in the Bible that we learn about St Joseph, so today we are going to listen to some Bible readings to discover for ourselves why Joseph is so highly regarded.

SLIDE THREE

FACT ONE: 'St Joseph listened to God.'

The first reading we'll hear explains how St Joseph listened to God's voice. We must listen carefully too, to learn how.

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew 1:18-25 (Adapted)

Joseph loved Mary and was engaged to marry her. But when he found out that Mary was going to be the mother of a baby, he was not sure what to do. He wondered, 'Should I still marry her or perhaps I can quietly break off our engagement?'

But God sent his angel to Joseph in a dream. The angel told him that Mary's baby was God's son, he should marry Mary and that he must name the baby, Jesus. Joseph did everything the angel told him to do.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

In the reading we hear how St Joseph listened carefully to the angel, and because he was a kind, caring man who loved God, he did immediately what God had asked of him and married Mary.

Click for question

How can we listen to God?

Possible answers: By being still and silent, praying to Jesus and reading or listening to Bible stories.

Prayer is not just talking to God. It also involves listening. Perhaps as a class, you can have a regular moment of silence to get into the habit of listening to God. That way, pupils can better understand what God wants them to do. Tell them not to expect to hear a voice, but rather to have a sense of God's presence.

SLIDE FOUR

FACT TWO: 'St Joseph looked after Jesus and Mary.'

Let's listen to another reading from the Gospel of St Matthew, that tells us how Joseph looked after Jesus and Mary.



A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew 2:7-15 (Adapted)

King Herod was very angry that a new king had been born in his country. He was scared that Jesus might replace him as king and wanted to kill the child, Jesus. So he told the Wise Men to let him know where Jesus was. But God's angel warned them not to tell Herod.

The angel visited Joseph again and told him to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt, where Jesus would be safe. The Holy Family lived in Egypt until King Herod died and it was safe to return home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

This was a frightening time for Joseph and Mary. They had to leave their home, friends and family to keep Jesus safe from King Herod. St Joseph showed his loving care and service by sacrificing his own comfort to keep Jesus safe.

[Click for question.](#)

How will you show God's love to children who are frightened or lonely?

Possible answers: Inviting someone to join a game or giving them a smile or saying 'hello' can make them feel loved and cared for. We can pray to God for them, and we can ask St Joseph to pray, too. We can share what we have, so that the children can be safe and happy and know that they have not been forgotten.

SLIDE FIVE

FACT THREE: 'St Joseph trusted God.'

The next reading from the Gospel of St Luke, tells us how much Joseph – and Mary – trusted God.

A reading from the Gospel of St Luke 2:22-35 (Adapted)

When Joseph and Mary presented baby Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem, they met Simeon, a holy man.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, Simeon recognized Jesus as the saviour God had promised. Simeon took Jesus in his arms, and praised God, saying, 'My eyes have seen your salvation, a light for all people around the world and the glory of Israel.'

But he also said to Mary, 'A sword will pierce your own soul.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Simeon's message to Mary foretold the heartache she would feel as she watched her son, Jesus, be rejected, suffer and die on the cross. But Mary and Joseph knew that God does not want us to worry about anything. They trusted that God loves us and wants the best for us.



When we follow God, we find peace, love, and joy but sometimes life can be difficult, too. Joseph and Mary relied on each other and prayed together to ask God to guide them and help them to follow his plan.

[Click for question.](#)

When you are anxious, who can you turn to for help?

Possible answers: We can talk to our parents, carers, teachers or grandparents. We can also pray to our friend, Jesus, to help us and ask St Joseph to pray for us, too.

SLIDE SIX

FACT FOUR: 'St Joseph shared his faith with Jesus.'

The next reading, also from the Gospel of St Luke, shows us how Joseph shared his faith with Jesus and taught him about his religion.

Let's listen carefully to find out how.



A reading from the Gospel of St Luke 2:41-47 (Adapted)

Every year the family travelled to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old, Jesus became separated from Mary and Joseph. They spent three days searching for him. When they found Jesus, he was in the Temple, listening and talking to the Temple teachers.

The teachers were astonished at how much Jesus knew and understood. Many of the people who heard Jesus speak wondered, 'Where did he get all this wisdom?'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Jesus learnt about the Jewish faith and customs at home from his parents, Mary and Joseph. They celebrated the holy days together and so learned to appreciate how important they were.

What holy days do you celebrate with your family? What do you do?

Possible answers: Christmas, Easter, Sundays. On these days, we go to church, say special prayers, or eat different food.

[Click for question.](#)

Who teaches you how to pray and keep the holy days special?

Possible answers: parents, grandparents, teachers, priests, godparents. We should remember to thank them. We can say a prayer for them, ask God to look after them and to guide them so that they are wise, like Jesus.

SLIDE SEVEN

FACT FIVE: 'Today St Joseph is the patron of God's worldwide family – the Church'

Just as St Joseph protected the Holy Family when he was on earth, today in heaven he continues to care for all families, including God's worldwide family – the Church.

Pope Francis has said that we can learn from St Joseph how to be caring, humble, faithful, and listen carefully to God and each other.

Who can we care for?

Possible answers: Our families, people we meet at school, the elderly, the homeless, the sick, everyone!

[Click for question](#)

How can we care for ourselves, one another, and God's worldwide family?

Possible answers: We can be loving, show our concern, pray for others, be kind and friendly. We can be generous with our time and share what we have so that others may know that they are God's children and that they are loved. We can care for the environment and look after the common home we all share.



SLIDE EIGHT

Many parish churches are named after St Joseph, like the one in the photograph in a poor part of South Africa. The priest on the left is Fr Ephraim. He belongs to an order of missionary priests called the St Joseph's Missionary Society.

Missionaries are people who have left their homes and families to bring God's love to people in very poor and remote parts of the world. Fr Ephraim and his fellow priests in the St Joseph's Missionary Society, try to be like St Joseph by living lives of service and love around the world.

Fr Ephraim's parish of St Joseph holds a Saturday morning club for all the children who live in the area.

As the parish is in a poor district, Fr Ephraim helps to make sure that the children who attend receive a good meal, are helped with their homework, and are given clothes if theirs are too small or worn out.

He also reminds the children that through Mission Together, children in different parts of the world are praying and sharing to make sure they are looked after.

One girl called Zandile said how this made her feel, 'We know that children pray for us and care for us. It makes me feel happy, because children care about Jesus and care about us too.'



SLIDE NINE

Let's finish our time together by praying for Zandile and all the children at St Joseph's parish, South Africa. Let's remember too all the children here in our school.

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love.
Now and forever.
Amen

St Joseph, pray for us.

