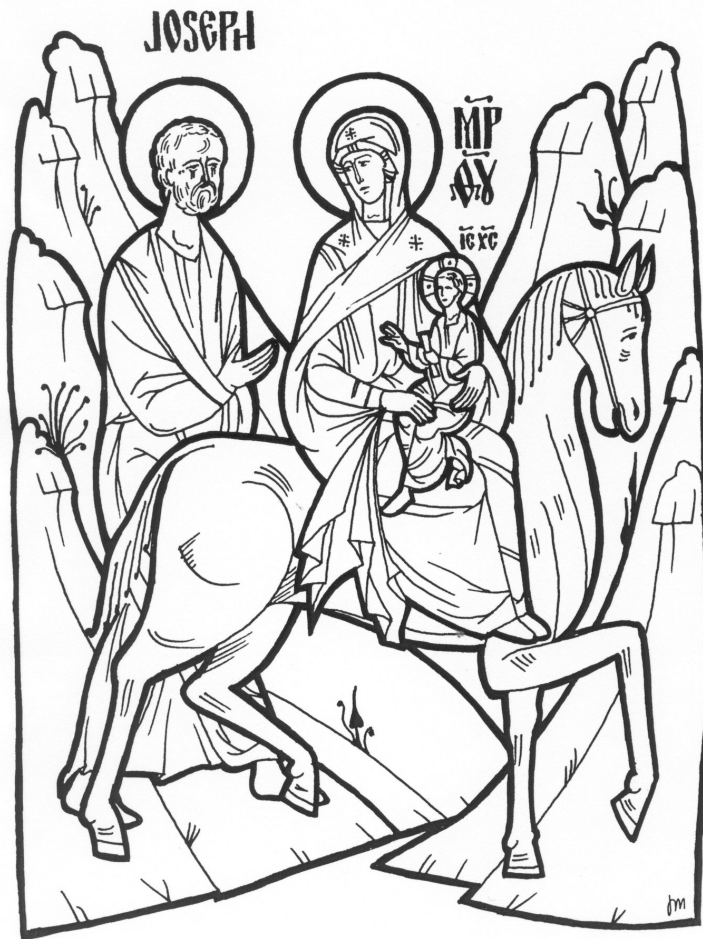


Escape to Egypt



One night,

after the wise men who had been visiting Jesus left, Joseph had a special dream. In his dream, an angel talked to him. The angel told Joseph to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt. The angel told Joseph that King Herod had found out about Jesus when the wise men came looking for Him. Now, Herod wanted to kill Jesus!

Joseph got up right away while it was still night. He took Jesus and Mary to Egypt, just like the angel told him to do.

Jesus was safe in Egypt. And when King Herod died, an angel visited Joseph in another dream. This time, the angel told him it was safe to go back to Israel.

Joseph obeyed the angel again, taking Jesus and Mary back to Israel. They moved to the town of Nazareth. That is where the boy Jesus lived until he grew up.

Thinking About God's Word . . . Matthew 2:13-23

1. Who talked to Joseph in dreams?
2. What did the angel tell Joseph to do? Why?
3. Did Joseph obey the angel?
4. How did Joseph know that it was safe for the family to go back to Israel?
5. What town did Jesus grow up in?

Where did the family go?

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Sunday's Gospel
for Children

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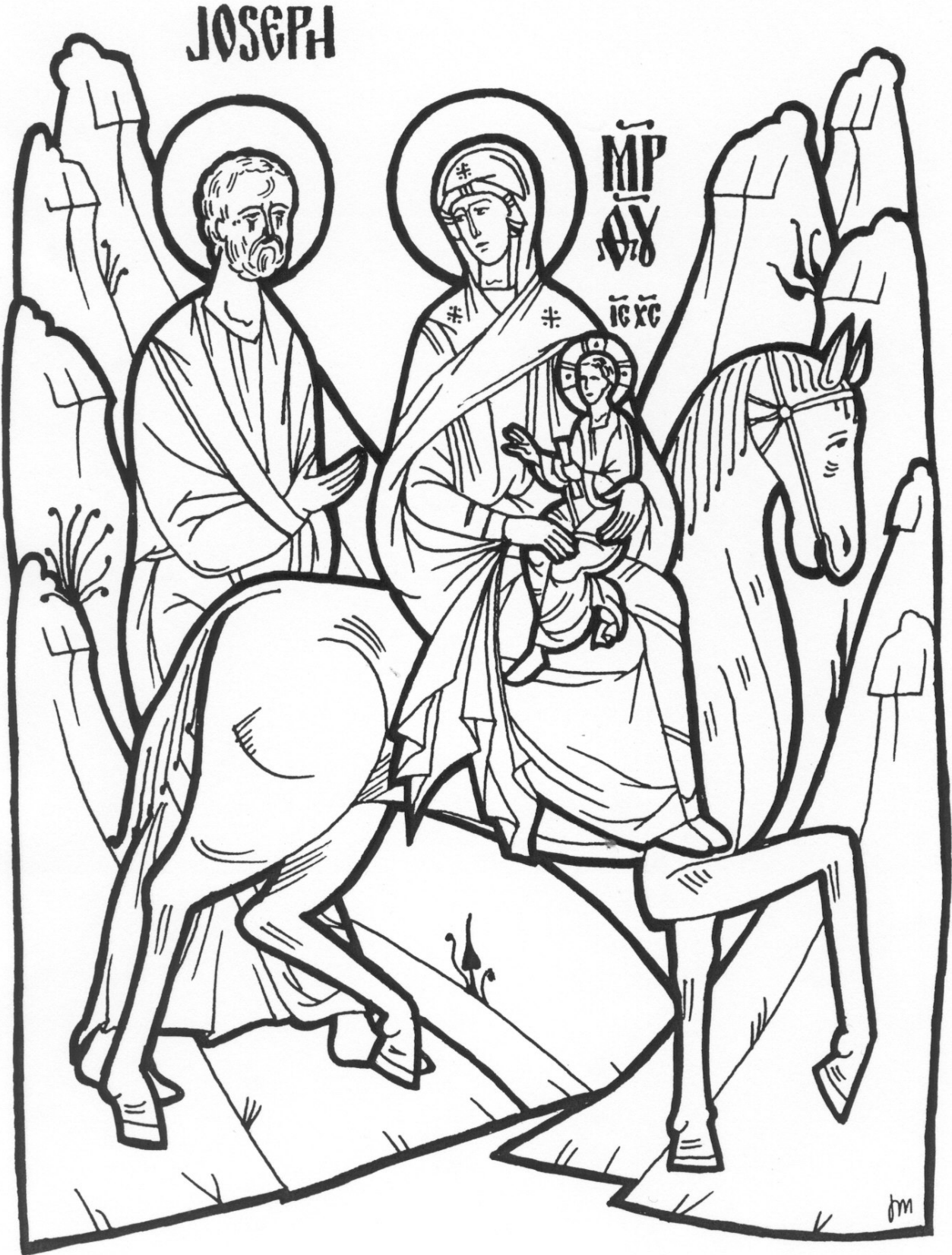
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Next week

John the Forerunner
Baptizes Jesus

Escape to Egypt

Sunday after the Nativity, Matthew 2:13-23



Escape to Egypt

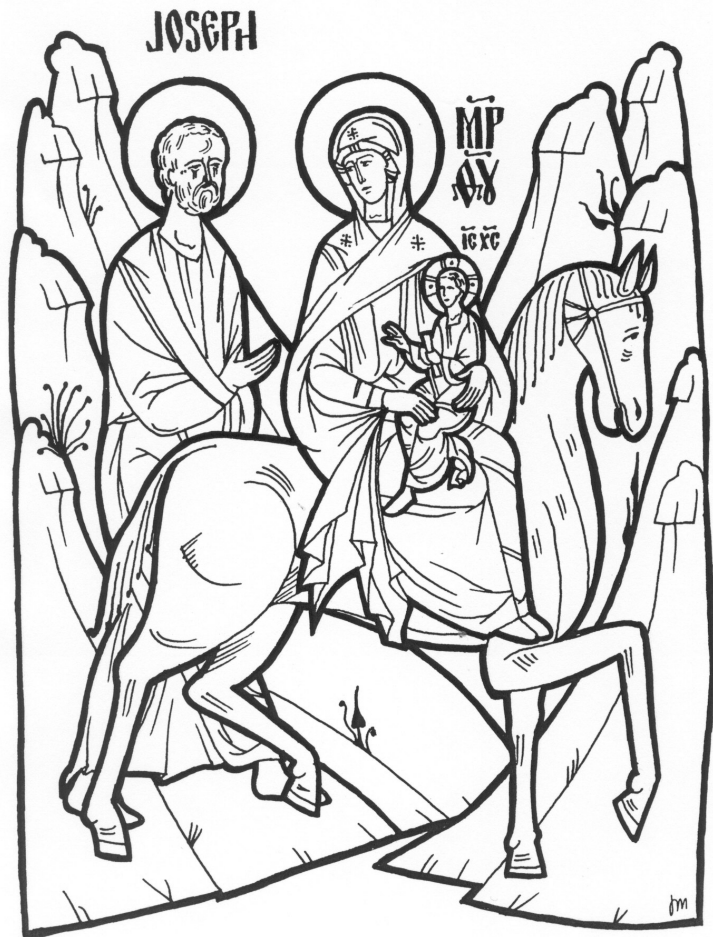
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Thinking About God's Word . . . Matthew 2:13-23

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Who talked to Joseph in dreams? | Where did the family go? |
| 2. What did the angel tell Joseph to do? Why? | 4. How did Joseph know that it was safe for the family to go back to Israel? |
| 3. Did Joseph obey the angel? | 5. What town did Jesus grow up in? |

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Next week

John the Forerunner
Baptizes Jesus

Escape to Egypt

When the wise men

had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."



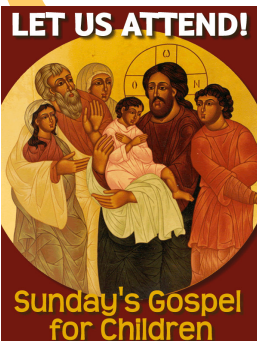
Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more."

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Thinking About God's Word . . . *Matthew 2:13-23*

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. When did Joseph and his family leave for Egypt? Why? | 4. Why didn't Joseph take his family back to Judea? | 6. It must have been hard for Joseph and his family to adjust to Egypt. They had to learn a new culture and a different language. Do you |
| 2. Why did King Herod kill the male children in Bethlehem? | 5. What is the name for people who need to leave their homes because | it's no longer safe for them? |
| 3. What three prophecies are fulfilled in this Gospel passage? | | |



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Next week
John the Forerunner
Baptizes Jesus

Readers Theater

Characters: Narrator, Angel, Hosea, Jeremiah, Prophets

Narrator: When the wise men had departed, had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,

Angel: Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.

Narrator: And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet,

Hosea: Out of Egypt have I called my son.

Narrator: Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

Jeremiah: A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.

Narrator: But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying,

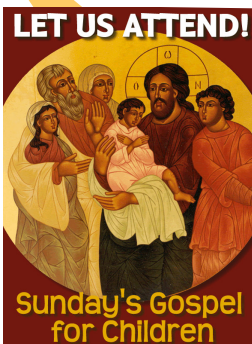
Angel: Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.

Narrator: And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled,

Prophets: He shall be called a Nazarene.

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Next week

Take up Your Cross

Sunday after the Nativity.
Matthew 2:13-23

Escape to Egypt

When the wise men

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Focus questions

1. How did Joseph find out about the threats of King Herod?
2. How did Joseph find out that it was safe to return to Israel?
3. How did Joseph find out about the danger from Archelaus?
4. What is the name of the messenger angel that appeared to Joseph? Name other stories in the Scriptures where he brings a message.
5. Do you know any modern-day refugees—people who have fled their countries because it wasn't safe?
6. As you read the newspaper or hear the news this week, listen for stories of people whose lives are in danger. Pray for them that God and the angels will protect and lead them.

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Sunday's Gospel
for Children

Next week: John the Forerunner Baptizes Jesus

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Sunday after the Nativity.
Matthew 2:13-23

Grades: High School
December 26, 2010

Escape to Egypt

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had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

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withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Focus questions

1. Why do you think Herod felt so threatened that he had to kill thousands of children?
2. In what ways was Jesus an actual threat to Herod's reign?
3. How effective was Herod's plan?
4. Herod was "in a furious rage." What makes you most angry?
5. Think about a time when you were angry and overreacted.
6. Compare Herod's and Joseph's ways of dealing with the threats in this passage.

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