



## Week of January 29 - a

### Scripture: Matt 2:19-23

**Main Idea:** It is now safe for Joseph to bring Mary and young Jesus back to their homeland. However, it is not safe to return to Bethlehem. So, God warned Joseph in a dream, and they settled in Nazareth instead. Joseph & Mary have had a difficult and challenging start to their marriage and young family. They are tasked with raising the Messiah (future "Savior King") and they have already had to relocate twice.

#### Questions

**Preschool:** Joseph, Mary, and Baby Jesus have moved two times in a short period. Would it be hard for you to move away from people (family and friends) that you know?

**Grade school:** They had to move around a lot when Jesus was a small child. Why do you think that is? During this time did Joseph trust God? How so? Another thing to think about is where they finally settled... in Nazareth. Are there Old Testament scriptures that talk about the Messiah being from there?

**Teen:** In our lives there will be difficult times. In what ways do you find comfort in those difficult times? Do you think to turn to Jesus when you get stressed about things? How do you think Jesus can help you through hard times?

**Adult:** Have you ever been forced to relocate, for a job or health reasons or family issues? How long did it take you to fit into the new place? How long did it take to find a church home? For a third time Joseph has a message from God. And this is the last time we hear of Joseph in Matthew. What kind of example has he been for Jesus? Did God choose a reliable father for his son? Things don't always go the way we planned or dreamed. What are some ways you have seen God use your situation for his glory?

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

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#### PRAY:

For the difficulties and worries in your life. Pray that God leads you and protects you like he did Joseph, Mary & baby Jesus.

#### Monthly Memory Verse

##### Psalm 5:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.



## Week of January 29 - b

### Scripture: Mt 3:1-3

**Main Idea:** In this passage Matthew introduces us to the character John the Baptist. We see his job was to prepare the way for people to come to Jesus. John had a unique responsibility as Jesus' forerunner but **in a general sense we all want to follow this example by preparing the way for people to come to Christ.**

#### Questions

**Preschool:** John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. How do you show people Jesus' love?

**Grade school:** John lived a simple life. He had people coming to him from everywhere to hear the preaching of Jesus. He wasn't a fancy guy. He lived in the wilderness. He had studied the scriptures and he taught them to anyone that would listen. We can do that too. We can reach out to others by the way we live and by praying and going to church.

**Teen:** What can we do to prepare the path for others to come to Jesus? Why is it important that we do so?

**Adult:** Have you had the experience of bringing someone to Christ? This could be family or friends. What do you think influenced them most, your words or your actions? Why? Have you studied with or talked with someone who did not come to Christ? What do you think impacted their decision? If you could do it over, would you make changes in your approach? What are some ways you can help "prepare the way" for people to get to know Jesus?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

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#### PRAY:

For God to help you to be an example for Jesus and lead people to Jesus

### Monthly Memory Verse

#### Psalm 5:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.