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# DAY 9

Joseph

LEADING IN FAITH

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“Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus”

**(MATTHEW 1:18-25, ESV).**

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Often overlooked, the miracle timing of Joseph’s obedience was critical to the carrying out of God’s miracle timing of Christmas. If you think about it, one wrong move from Joseph would have thrown the whole plan off. Joseph was the head of the house. By faith, Joseph had to believe that Mary had conceived by the Holy Spirit and not by unfaithfulness to him. His decisions and his cooperation at precisely the right times were critical to completing God’s plan and the fulfillment of the prophecies of Jesus’ birth.

Joseph had to travel, on foot, from Nazareth to Bethlehem while Mary was nearing her due date. This took faith! It was a 90-mile trip over rough terrain with a pregnant woman, and it held much uncertainty. Yet, he was obedient.

By faith, Joseph got up and went to Egypt in the middle of the night, having no idea what they would do when they arrived. As far as we know, they didn’t know anyone in Egypt and had no way of making a living. He could have waited and questioned whether he really heard from God. Yet, any delay on his part would have been detrimental to the safety of young Jesus.

The gold, frankincense and myrrh brought by the Magi were worth a substantial amount of money and likely funded their time in Egypt. What if he had refused to receive the gifts from the Magi out of a sense of pride or for any other reason? Instead, he trusted that God had a plan.

Joseph didn’t hesitate or question what God told him to do. He never gave up, and he never quit

He took one step after another, not knowing what would happen. He didn't follow his feelings or fears. Trusting in Almighty God, he walked the walk of faith—the kind of faith that comes from the knowledge of God's goodness and love. Because of his trust in and obedience to God, God's plan for Redemption—His Son, Jesus—was not only born but lived to grow up and fulfill His redemptive purpose!

# Study

## Trust In God, Despite Your Own Reputation

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"  
(Matthew 16:24, *ESV*).

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### LIVE THE WORD

Do you know what God says about you? Does the world see God in you? In the way you talk? In the way you act? You are a God-follower. So, make sure that your words and actions reflect that. Decide that you are who God says you are...just that and nothing else!

### SPEAK THE WORD

*I am who God says I am.*

*I am strong (1 Corinthians 16:13).*

*I am chosen (Ephesians 1:3-4).*

*I am complete (Colossians 2:10).*

*I am joyful (Psalm 16:11).*

*I am loved (Romans 5:8-9).*

*I am made for purpose (Ephesians 2:10).*

*I am fearless (Joshua 1:9).*

*I am victorious (1 John 4:4).*

*I am free (John 8:36).*

*And God is with me always (Deuteronomy 31:6).*

### SCRIPTURE STUDY:

Matthew 16:24; 1 Peter 2:9; John 1:12; 2 Timothy 1:7; Jeremiah 31:3



# Apply

Trusting God when our reputation is on the line takes faith. Faith that God is faithful. Faith that God will do what He said He will do. Faith that God has plans to prosper us and not to harm us. Faith that we are who God says that we are. In the end, God's reputation is always more trustworthy than our own, and so we should always follow His will with quick obedience.

[NOTE: Joseph's trust and obedience in God and His will not only helped him in his life, it saved Jesus from death, and it kept his marriage strong and intact. If he had chosen not to do so, he would have never had Mary as his wife and Jesus could have very well been killed by those hunting His life.]

## **WALKING IT OUT TO VICTORY**

- Trust God's Word first and only.
- Remind yourself of what God says about you, your situation, your family and your purpose.
- Change anything in your life that is not in line with God's will. Bring yourself under submission to His Word and will.

## OPTION 1: PRINTED CIRCLE ORNAMENT (PG 5-7)

### Today's Ornament



### Materials



# Instructions

## STEP 1

Print artwork for Option 1 and cut out both circles.

## STEP 2

There are options for creating this easy ornament, depending on your supplies and desires...

### PAPER & TAPE OPTION

Place tape on the back of one printed circle (fold tape over to create double-sided stick). You may want to make three circles of tape to help it stay together. Cut a piece of string and tie it into a loop for hanging. Place the string on the back of the taped circle over the tape, leaving enough loop coming out the top to hang the ornament. Line up the tops of the printed circle artwork and press the back of the 2nd circle into the tape over the string on the 1st circle.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE OPTIONS →

## PAPER & GLUE OPTION

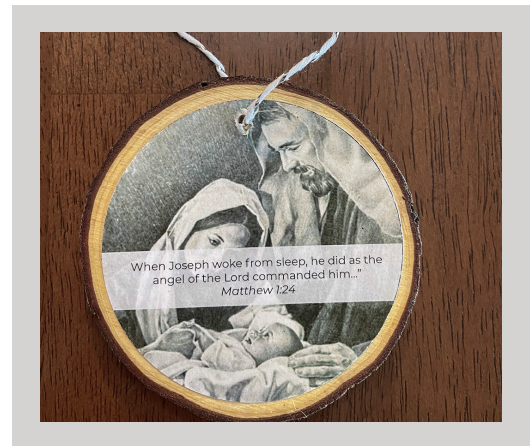
Place glue on the back of one printed circle. You should cover the whole back to the edges, but do not over-soak if using liquid glue instead of a glue stick. Cut a piece of string and tie into a loop for hanging. Place the string on the back of the glued circle into the glue, leaving enough loop coming out the top to hang the ornament. Line up the tops of the circle artwork and press the back of the 2nd circle into the glue and over the string on the back of the 1st circle. Press evenly to secure to edges.

## PAPER & PLASTIC BACKING OPTION

Place tape on the back of one printed circle (fold tape over to create double-sided stick). You may want to make three circles of tape to help it stay together. Cut a piece of string and tie it into a loop for hanging. Place the string on the back of the taped circle over the tape, leaving enough loop coming out the top to hang the ornament. Line up the tops of the printed circle artwork and press the back of the 2nd circle into the tape over the string on the 1st circle.

## PAPER & WOODEN BACKING OPTION

Using a foam brush, paint the wooden backing with Mod Podge. Press the printed circle artwork onto the wet Mod Podge (be sure to line up the top with the hole for hanging at the top) and let it sit to dry. Using a toothpick or skewer, poke the hole on the wooden backing through the paper. Then paint over the top of the printed circle with the Mod Podge to seal the paper to the wooden backing. Repeat for the 2nd circle on the other side of the wooden backing. Cut a piece of string and pass it through the hole at the top of the wooden backing (you may need the toothpick or skewer to help push the string through the hole), and tie into a loop for hanging. [Find these on Amazon here.]



### STEP 3

This will create a double-sided ornament ready for hanging.



When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the  
angel of the Lord commanded him..."  
(Matthew 1:24, *ESV*).

OPTION 2: CRAFT ORNAMENT (PG 8-11)

## Today's Ornament



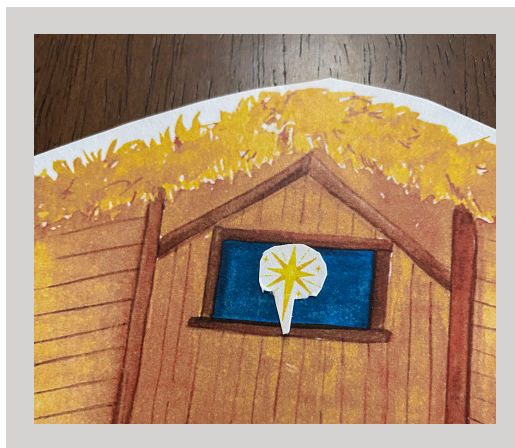
## Materials



# Instructions

### STEP 1

Print the Nativity page for Option 2 and cut out all the pieces.



### STEP 2

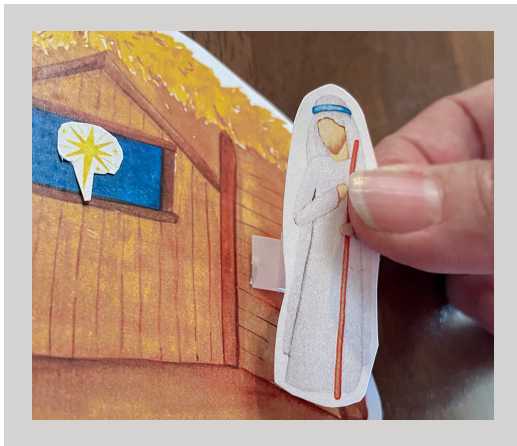
Start with the small star; add glue to the back and add it to the small window behind the Nativity.

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### STEP 3

Take a strip of cardstock and accordion-fold it four times. Cut off the extra that is left over. Add glue to one end and attach to the back of Joseph cutout. Then add glue to the other flat end and place Joseph in the Nativity scene on the right side.



### STEP 4

Repeat for Mary, adding her to the left side.

### STEP 5

Repeat for baby Jesus, adding Him in the middle.

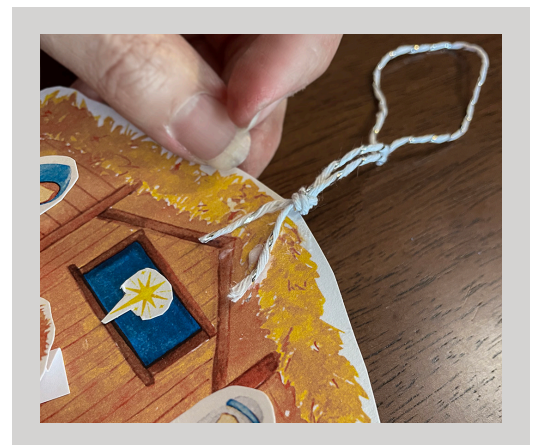
### STEP 6

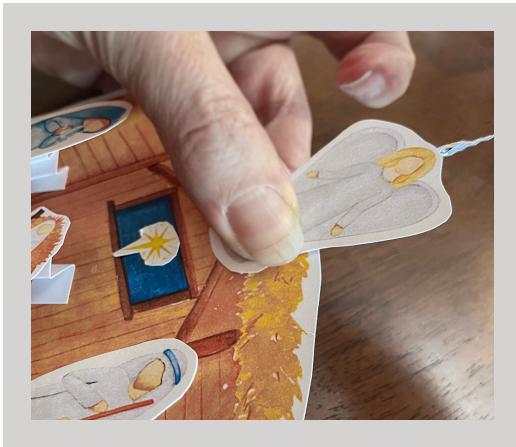
Then add glue to the back of the sheep and add them to the sides of the scene.

### STEP 7

Cut a piece of string and tie in a loop for hanging. Glue to the top middle of the Nativity.

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## STEP 8

Lastly, add glue to the back of the bottom of the angel and add it to the top of the manger, over the string. Press to glue tightly. [OPTIONAL: You can poke a small hole away from the edge of the Nativity at the top middle and pass the string through the hole, and then glue the angel over top for added security.]

## STEP 9

**OPTIONAL:** Write your favorite scripture from the Christmas story to the back of the Nativity scene.



DAY 9: JOSEPH (Option 2) - Nativity Figures





## Today's Ornament



## Materials



# Instructions

### STEP 1

On 1/2 of the plastic globe, paint a night sky in blue and black. Allow to dry completely.



### STEP 2

In black, paint an outline silhouette of the Nativity manger against the night sky.

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### STEP 3

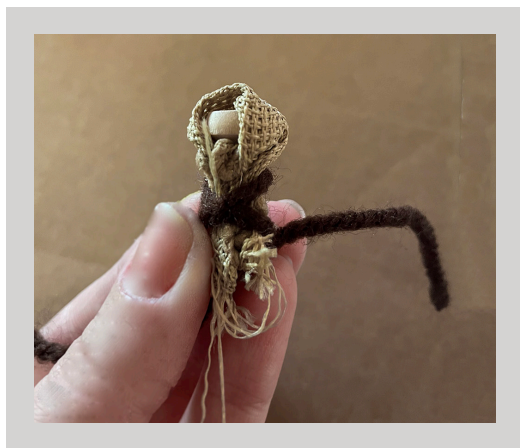
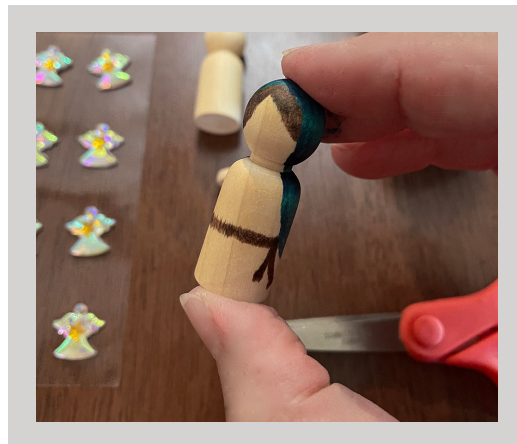
On one wooden peg, draw or paint a Mary figure—draw the headscarf in lighter blue, small bit of hair on the forehead in lighter brown, and a tie at the waist in dark blue or brown.

**OPTIONAL:** You can color her entire bodice in light blue and use dark blue for the headscarf and waist tie.

### STEP 4

On the other wooden peg, draw or paint a Joseph figure—draw the headscarf in dark brown, waist tie in dark brown, and small amount of hair on the forehead in light brown.

**OPTIONAL:** You can color his entire bodice and hair in light brown and use the dark brown for his headscarf and waist tie.



### STEP 5

Wrap the small wooden peg in the cloth and use the piece of yarn to tie it into place. If needed, secure with some glue underneath. This represents baby Jesus.

### STEP 6

Add an angel sticker to the top of the manger silhouette in the globe, then add Joseph, Mary and Jesus into the globe.

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## STEP 7

Attach the other half of the globe, lining up the holes for hanging at the top, and press to secure.

## STEP 8

Cut a piece of string and put one end through the hanging holes on the globe ornament. Tie into a loop for hanging.

