

**What Child is This?
Week 4 – Joseph**

Joseph was definitely known as Jesus' _____
father.

John 1:43-45 (NLT, pg. 882) The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come, follow me." Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown. Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth."

John 6:41-42 (NLT, pg. 887) Then the people began to murmur in disagreement because he had said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know his father and mother. How can he say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

Luke 2:48 (NLT, pg. 852) His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere."

Matthew 1:18-25 (pg. 799)

What Child is This?

He is the One who adopts and names us as part of His own
_____.

Galatians 4:4-7 (NLT, pg. 973) But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

He is the one who makes adoption into His family

_____.

Matthew 1:21 (NLT, pg. 799) And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Romans 8:14-16 (NLT, pg. 941) For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

Ephesians 1:5 (NLT, pg. 977) God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

He is the one who enables adoption into God's family and will give a new _____ to those who accept His gift.

Revelation 2:17 (NLT, pg. 1042) "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven. And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it."

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT, pg. 965) This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Final Thought: What child is this? He is the one that came
to _____ me!

What Child is This?

Week 4 discussion questions

Adoption is at the center of God's plan to redeem his creation. Not only was Jesus adopted by Joseph, but we are adopted into God's family when we accept Jesus as our savior. What is your experience with or observation of adoption(s)? How does this earthly concept illustrate the story of the gospel?

Read Matthew 1:18-25, Matthew 2:13-15, and Matthew 2:19-23. These passages describe a series of dreams that Joseph had with instructions from God about Jesus and his family. What stands out to you about Joseph? What can you see in his life that would benefit your faith journey if you followed his example?

Use the clues within the story to create a timeline of these dreams, how much time passed between the first dream and their return to Nazareth? (It is somewhere between 3 and 4 years) Does realizing the length of time between the dreams change the story? Why or why not? Do you think Joseph ever questioned if he was doing the right thing during the months or years between dreams? Do you ever question God's timing or faithfulness during times of silence from God? Explain.

We started this Christmas season with a challenge; to come to the Christmas story with fresh eyes. How successful have you been at this? What is one thing that God has shown you for the first time about the Christmas story? How has this helped you to make progress in your spiritual journey?