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## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT "JOSEPH LOVES"

Choose from the activities below. Maybe even do one each day this week as you celebrate the first week of Advent.

### READ:

"Little People, Big Dreams: Rosa Parks" by Lizbeth Kaiser

- This link on YouTube will take you to a reading of this book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oepOjH0jWdM>

After listening to the book talk about these questions:

- Remember that preparing the way for others is one way to show love. How did Rosa prepare the way for others?
- How do you think she learned to be so brave?
- What is it like to be the first one to do something?
- What are some ways that you can love others by preparing the way, like Rosa?

### MAKE A STAR OF LOVE:

Use the star template on the last page or draw your own. Cut it out. Write the word Love on it and decorate it with crayons, stickers, paint or whatever art supplies you have. Decorate it in a way that reflects your idea of Hope. Everyone in the whole family can make a Star of Hope.

We will make a star each week of Advent. Decide as a family where you will post up your stars each week. Suggestions: refrigerator, Christmas tree, wreath, mirror, blank wall. Use your star of love to remind you to look for signs of love around you. Talk about these signs of love each night at the dinner table (or any other family gathering time that you have).



## WONDER ABOUT ARTWORK

The picture below (“Joseph’s Dream” by James Tissot) is an artist’s imagining of what the angel looked like in Joseph’s dream.

- Read Matthew 1:18 – 23 as you look at the image
- Do you think Joseph was afraid?
- What made Joseph change his mind, stay with Mary and be Jesus’ father on earth?
- If you have a nativity scene, put Joseph at the front of the stable to honor Joseph’s faith in God and love.



## LISTEN TO A SONG:

“Mary & Joseph” by Tim McGraw: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6IU1s6zpfM>

After listening and watching the music video talk about how the song made you feel and what you liked or didn’t like about it. Talk about the people in the video – do they match your mental pictures of what Joseph, Mary, and Jesus looked like?

The most of the images in the music video are from the movie, “The Nativity Story”. Warning: The music video has one very brief image of Jesus bloody on the cross. This movie is PG and probably best for middle to older elementary kids. In the movie, I particularly like how it depicts the angels’ appearances. I also appreciate this movie because the images are ethnically and historically correct for the place and time that Jesus was born. The movie begins with Herod’s slaughter of the children in Bethlehem (be prepared for that – See Matthew 2: 16 - 18). It then tells the story of Jesus birth as an explanation of why Herod did that and ends with the family’s flight to Egypt. For older children and teens, this movie is a great conversation piece to talk about the story of Jesus’ birth. If you feel your child is mature enough, have a conversation about the miracle of the virgin birth and how brave and loving Joseph was to stay with Mary.

## SHOW SOME LOVE:

- Make some sandwiches. Package them in zip lock bags with other treats. Drive into Austin and hand them out to homeless folks
- Make a card and leave it on your neighbor’s door
- Leave a snack and a card on your trash can on pickup day for your garbage collector
- Call or Face Time a friend or relative that you haven’t talked to in a while

**Remember that you are the hands and feet of Jesus. By showing love, you are showing that Jesus is with us even today.**

