

November 27 | Sunday
A Carpenter Named Joseph

Read [Matthew 13:53-58](#)



28 | Mon – Joseph of Bethlehem | Read [Matthew 1:16, 18-19](#)

Luke tells the story of Jesus' birth through the eyes of Mary and Matthew gives Joseph's point of view. Although Mary lived in Nazareth, it seems that Bethlehem was Joseph's original hometown (see Luke 2:4-5) and this was possibly an arranged marriage as was common. Unlike Mary, Joseph had no 'lines' - we don't read a single word he speaks in the Gospels. His actions, however, speak for the kind of man he was. What description of your character is being given by the attitudes and actions you display?

29 | Tue – Flashback: Bethlehem and Jacob | Read [Genesis 35:16-20 and 48:7](#)

Bethlehem was a small town about six miles from Jerusalem. This is the place where Jacob's beloved wife Rachel died and was buried. She lost her life giving birth to a son, yet centuries later, another son was born - one of Jacob's descendants - who would heal the world's brokenness. In what ways have you seen God bring hope even out of heartbreaking circumstances?

30 | Wed – Flashback: Bethlehem and David | Read [Ruth 1:1, 16-19, 22 and 4:11-17](#)

Naomi's family left Bethlehem because of a famine. Years later she returned as a widow with no family but her daughter-in-law Ruth, also widowed. It was Ruth's selfless care for Naomi that won the heart of Boaz. Their son Obed became the father of Jesse and his son, King David, all born in this town. And eventually, their family line would lead to Jesus' birth. Who could have guessed that their loyalty, devotion and commitment would set events in motion that would change the world?

01 | Thu – Joseph the carpenter | Read [Matthew 13:53-57 and Mark 6:16](#)

The gospel writers never specifically said what Joseph did for a living, but both Matthew and Mark give clues when recording Jesus' return to Nazareth. In their accounts, people identified Jesus as a carpenter and the son of a carpenter and rejected him. Apparently, he was disqualified from being a spiritual authority in their eyes because of his job. Are you willing to learn wisdom from others, even if they don't have the right "credentials"?

02 | Fri – Joseph the father | Read [Matthew 13:53-57 and Mark 6:1-6 again](#)

Jesus' mother and siblings are mentioned but not his father. Scholars believe Joseph was not alive when Jesus began his public ministry. The last mention of Joseph is taking Jesus to Jerusalem at age 12 (Luke 2:41-49). Joseph could have died shortly after that or he could have lived until Jesus was about 29. Either way, it is likely that Joseph only had a few years to help shape Jesus' growth. What opportunities do you have to serve, bless and influence others? Is it tempting to think these will last indefinitely?

03 | Sat – Bethlehem and Jesus | Read [Micah 5:2-5 and John 7:40-43](#)

Micah was a prophet in Jerusalem about 700 years before Jesus was born (Jer. 26:17-19). Micah's prophetic words were quoted by the Hebrew scribes to King Herod when he asked for the Messiah's birthplace in Matt. 2:6. Micah proclaimed God's ability to do big things in people and places that seem unimportant. God chose this small town as the beginning place for His plan to redeem humankind. Isn't it interesting that Jesus called himself *the bread of life* and his birthplace, Bethlehem, literally meant *house of bread*?