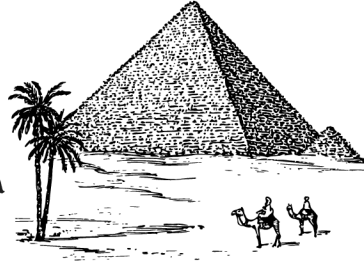


Seeking shelter in Egypt

Old
Testament
Story Time

In the Old Testament we hear lots of stories about God's chosen people. Although God gives His people the land of Canaan as their home, they often find themselves for different reasons in the land of Egypt.

Egypt was a powerful and magnificent nation in the ancient world. They were governed by a supreme ruler whom they called Pharaoh. Pharaoh was like a god in the human form to the people. Their beliefs and way of life were very different from the people of the one true Lord God.



The nation of Egypt has an important role for God's people in the Old Testament. We often find God's plans for His people unfolding in Egypt in magnificent ways. Egypt was sometimes a place of refuge and shelter for His people, and in other times a place of divine judgment.

When Abraham and his family experienced famine -- they were running out of food -- they traveled to Egypt in order to survive.



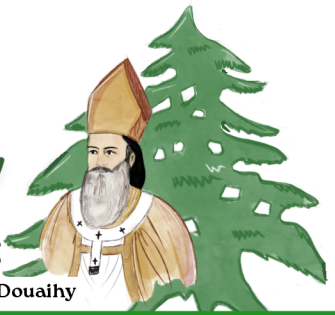
Jacob's son, Joseph, was sold into slavery in Egypt, but soon found himself second in charge of the whole nation. When Joseph was very powerful in Egypt, a famine broke out across the whole world. Joseph had prepared for the famine, so he had lots of food to make sure the people could eat. Jacob and the rest of his family went to Joseph in Egypt in order to survive.

The Israelite's were eventually enslaved in Egypt for 400 years. But God sent them Moses to free them from slavery. During their departure, God gave His people the gift of the Passover meal to remember their liberation from slavery.



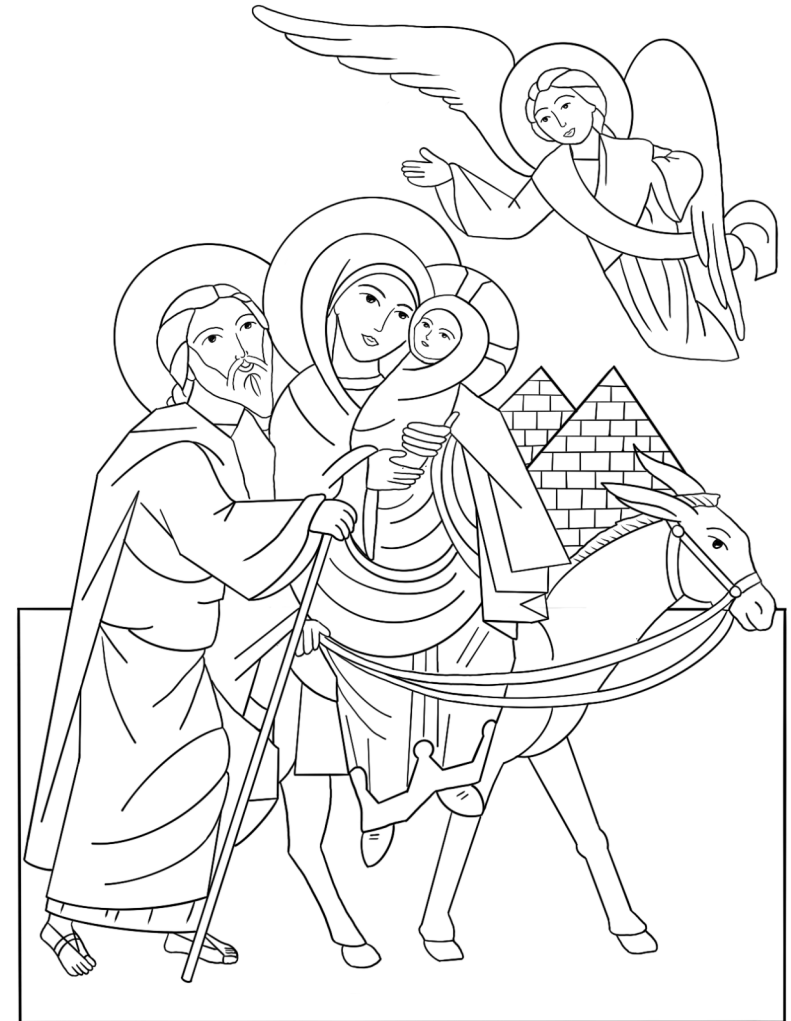
So much of the story of God's people unfolds in Egypt!

Cedar Kids



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

Flight into Egypt, Vol 1, No.11



The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said: "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him."





Gospel Corner

Matthew
2: 13-18

We learned a little bit about Saint Joseph a few weeks ago. We learned that he obeyed and did what was right even when it was hard. That was when he decided to take Mary as his wife and to raise Jesus as the angel had instructed.

Today we see Joseph once again show us how to be brave even when it is hard. In today's Gospel reading, the Holy Family is still in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Remember, Mary and Joseph do not live in Bethlehem. Their home is in Nazareth which would take several days to return to from Bethlehem.

One night while they were still in Bethlehem, an angel came to Joseph again in a dream. This time, the angel told Joseph to take baby Jesus and Mary and flee to Egypt because King Herod was searching for Jesus. Herod heard that a baby (Jesus) was born who might try to take over as king, so he wanted to put an end to the baby so that he would not lose his throne.



Joseph didn't hesitate. He obeyed immediately and took Mary and baby Jesus, by night, to Egypt. The Holy Family stayed in Egypt for a few years until the angel told Joseph it was safe to take his family home.

Because Joseph obeyed and did what he was told without questioning or hesitating, Jesus was kept safe from King Herod's ruthless search.

Saint Joseph, thank you for your holy example and help us to obey like you!

Did you know?

The Evangelical Counsels are three Christian virtues to lead one on the path to spiritual perfection. The three are: poverty, chastity, and obedience.

Obedience is connected to trust and respect. The word obedience comes from the Latin word meaning "to hear." When we obey God, it is a sign that we really trust Him and are listening to what He is saying, and we truly believe that He knows best.



What you can do

Obey God by going to Church every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation

Obey when your parents ask you to do things like clean your room, put your dirty plate in the sink, feed your pet, turn off your video game, etc.



These things might feel small, but when we obey in the small things, it makes the big things easier! Plus, it glorifies God!



Journey to Egypt

Help the Holy Family choose the right path to get to Egypt.

A.

B.

C.

D.