

# Joseph and Saint Joseph

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

While there are similarities between Joseph in the Old Testament and Jesus the Messiah, there are also similarities between Joseph in the Old Testament and Saint Joseph, the foster father of Jesus. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux observed several similarities between the accounts of Joseph in the Old Testament and Saint Joseph in the Gospels.<sup>1\*</sup>

**Begin by reading Matthew 1:18–25; 2:13–15; 2:19–23.** You will use these verses to find similarities between Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, and Joseph in the Old Testament.

**In Genesis, God granted Joseph the ability to interpret God's will and plans in dreams.**

Gen 37:5–8

**37** <sup>5</sup>Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they only hated him the more. <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Hear this dream which I have dreamed: <sup>7</sup>behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood

upright; and behold, your sheaves gathered round it, and bowed down to my sheaf." <sup>8</sup>His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to have dominion over us?" So they hated him yet more for his dreams and for his words.

Look in Matthew 1 for the three times God communicated his will and plan to Saint Joseph in a dream. Fill in the empty verses to show where these occur in Matthew's Gospel: **Mt 1:** 20 ; **Mt 2:** 13 ; **Mt 2:** 19

**In Genesis, Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and forced to go to Egypt.**

Gen 37:28

**37** <sup>28</sup>Then Midianite traders passed by; and they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit,

and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver; and they took Joseph to Egypt.

Find in Matthew 2 when Saint Joseph was forced to go to Egypt. Fill in the empty verses to show where this is in the Gospel: **Matthew 2:** 13 – 15

**In Genesis, Joseph was tasked with protecting and caring for the store of grain during the famine.**

Gen 41:55–57

**41** <sup>55</sup>When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; what he says to you, do." <sup>56</sup>So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses,

and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. <sup>57</sup>Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.

1. Who is the Bread of Life whom Saint Joseph cared for and protected?

Jesus

---

2. In what ways did Saint Joseph care for and protect Jesus? (See Mt 2:1-23.)

Answers may include he cared for Mary and Jesus before Jesus was born; he protected Jesus from Herod; and he cared for Jesus and protected him as a child.

---

3. What characteristics or qualities do Saint Joseph and Joseph have in common that you want to imitate in your life?

Answers may vary.

---

---

---

1 \* See Saint Bernard, "The Mission of the Angel," in *Sermons of St. Bernard on Advent & Christmas: Including the Famous Treatise on the Incarnation Called "Missus Est"* (London; Manchester; Glasgow; New York; Cincinnati; Chicago: R. & T. Washbourne; Benziger Bros., 1909), 44.