

## Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph

# CATECHETICAL ACTIVITY - AGES 6-8

### ST. JOSEPH: A LOVING AND CARING FATHER

#### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Internet for viewing the video, Smart TV or computer with a large screen, colouring pencils, copies of colouring page (pg. 3), copies of the Prayer to St. Joseph

#### CATECHIST PREPARATION

1. Read the lesson outline.
2. Copy the colouring page (1 per child).
3. Prepare yourself by reflecting on your relationship with your father or grandfather or another significant father figure who has influenced your life positively, e.g. uncle, teacher, mentor. Be prepared to share an example of how special your relationship is with these people. Talk about the qualities that the individuals have that you admire, e.g. hardworking, kind, loving, selfless, etc.
4. Preview the video about St. Joseph and review the task that follows it.

#### PROCESS

##### 1. GATHER:

- a. Introduce the topic by sharing your reflection from # 3 above.
- b. Ask the children to describe something they do with their fathers or grandfathers that makes their relationship unique.

##### **For example,**

- each night before bed, Daddy reads to me, and then we say our prayers together;
- when Mommy is at work, Daddy makes our favourite snack – (something that he knows will be a treat that we can share);
- I love to play basketball on the driveway with Daddy; or Grandpa takes me to Church, and afterwards, we go to get breakfast at the local restaurant etc.)

c. Ask the children: What makes these moments special?

**2. LISTEN AND WATCH**

- a. Play the video “Stories of Saints for Kids -Story of Saint Joseph”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWZ48mG95Xc>

**3. EXPLORE AND TALK**

- a. Take some time to talk about the “Story of St. Joseph” with the children by asking the following questions:
- i. Who was Joseph?
  - ii. Why was Joseph confused?
  - iii. Who helped Joseph to understand what God was asking of him?
  - iv. How did Joseph help Mary?
  - v. Where was baby Jesus born?
  - vi. How would you describe Joseph’s unique qualities of fatherhood? (i.e. courageous, kind, creative, loving, nurturing, gentle)

**4. DOING**

Ask the children to colour the image of the Holy Family (page 3). If appropriate, display their work around the room.

**5. GOING:** End the session by praying the prayer to St. Joseph. (Page 4)

**SAINT JOSEPH CARES FOR HIS FAMILY**



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## **PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH**

**Dear St. Joseph,**  
**by your love and care for Mary and baby Jesus,**  
**you have shown us how we should care for one another.**  
**Help us to love and care for our families and all people**  
**in the same way.**  
**We make our prayer in the name of the Father, the Son**  
**and the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen**

