



St. Joseph "What a precious gem given to us"

Use this activity to learn about St. Joseph. The emerald shaped cards are meant to symbolize that St. Joseph is a precious gift to us.

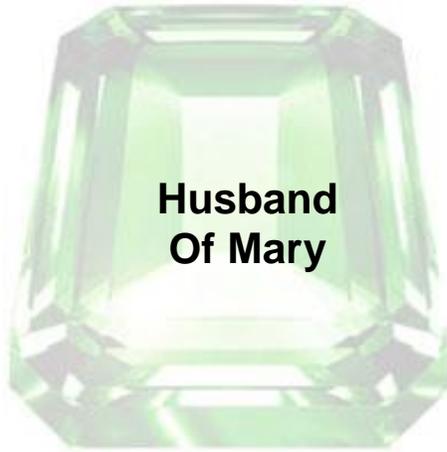
Instructions:

1. Cut out the emerald cards and the explanation cards for individual piles of each set.
2. Pass out the emerald cards to the students. Then pass out the explanation cards. These should be random or at least you do not want to match the two cards with the same student.

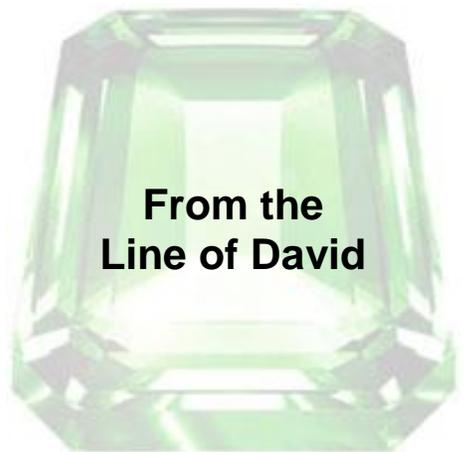
3. Ask the students with the explanation cards to read the text, however they should not read the title of the card as it will give it away. After reading the text, the teacher should ask which one of the emerald cards best matches the description. The student with that card should then acknowledge they have it and then both cards can be turned in. Then go on to the next.



“Just Man”



**Husband
Of Mary**



**From the
Line of David**



Carpenter



Man of Faith



**Humble
&
Hidden**



Foster Father



Obedience



**Head of the
Holy Family**

Joseph, the Carpenter

We know that Joseph was a poor carpenter, as Jesus was known as the carpenter's son. We also know when Joseph and Mary took the child Jesus to the temple they had a choice to offer either two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb.

Since it was custom for boys to learn their father's trade back then, we can assume that Jesus also worked as a carpenter along with his father. This is a great example of how our daily work can be made holy for God. We celebrate the feast of St. Joseph the "worker" on May 1st.

Joseph, Man of Faith

We can only imagine what it would have felt like to hear that your soon to be wife is pregnant. With the simple statement of an angel in a dream to Joseph, he learned the truth about the child that Mary was carrying in her womb. Joseph immediately and without question or concern for gossip, took Mary to be his wife.

We can also assume that Joseph being a good Jewish man also learned much from Jesus as he was probably with him until he died. (Not to mention his very holy wife.) Joseph would have only grown in faith and love for God by just being in the presence of Christ and Mary.

Joseph, Humble and Hidden

Of all the men throughout history, a simple village carpenter named Joseph was the one chosen by God to help raise the Child Jesus to adulthood. In his faithful, loving care was entrusted the childhood and youth of the Redeemer of the world. We do not know much about the years after the family settled in Nazareth. There are no quotes from Joseph in the Gospels. He does not do any outstanding things like that of the Apostles or even of Mary. He is not even mentioned much in the bible and we do not even know when or how he died. But yet, with all that we honor him and his hidden life as being a powerful witness to the power of God.

Joseph, the "Just Man"

Joseph was a good man, he was honest, fair and God-loving.

We know this because he had the right by law to have Mary stoned to death for being with child (not his child,) but he decided to just quietly divorce her, saving her from death, and humiliation, before the angel informed him of what really happened. (Mt 1:18-25)

We also know he loved God, as he was obedient to God when asked to do certain things. Like, get up and take the child into Egypt. We also know he raised Jesus to be a good Jew. Jesus knew the Scriptures and was familiar with his Jewish religion. Joseph, like Mary, wanted only to do God's will.

Joseph, the Husband of Mary

Joseph was betrothed (like engaged) to Mary before she became pregnant with Jesus. He then fulfilled the marriage contract with her after that.

We know that the church refers to the Holy Spirit as the spouse of Mary because God is the natural father of Jesus. Still Joseph is the husband to Mary. It is God's will that Joseph be with Mary and to be head of the family in which Jesus was to grow up.

Joseph and Mary had a very holy marriage. They loved and respected each other and gave themselves totally to God and His plan. Jesus was raised watching His parents in this loving holy marriage. St. Joseph feast day is March 19.

Joseph, from the line of King David

Joseph's ancestors are mentioned in the Gospels. It was important to the Jewish community to come from a good family. Joseph came from a royal family although he was poor and never lived in a palace. You would have to go back many generations to find any royalty in his family line. This is important because the ancient prophets mention that a savior would come from a specific royal family.

Since Joseph is the foster father of Jesus, Jesus is therefore from this family. A kingly family. Jesus is the king, that all the prophets foretold would come.