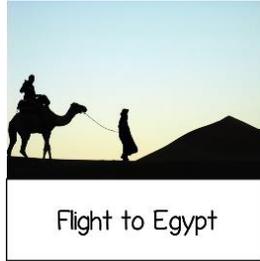


God's Story Your Story

January 4, 2015



Matthew 2:13-23

FAITH 5 – A pattern for shaping a life of faith

SHARE:

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ reflect on the key verse from Sunday's reading.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Matthew 2:13

TALK

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- What geographic locations hold special meaning to those in your community? What makes those places special? How do you celebrate those places?
- Reflect on where you anticipate your life's journey will take you in the coming year. What are you anxious about? What are you looking forward to?

PRAY

God of grief and hope, you sent your son, Jesus, into a broken world. His presence brought hope of peace and healing to all humankind. Bring healing and peace to our world today, for the glory of Jesus Christ our savior. Amen.

Bless:

God who works in mysterious ways, speak faith to us when understanding is hard. Speak trust when pain is great. Amen.

Some Background

Sometime within the first two years of Jesus' birth, King Herod was alerted to the presence of a baby who was born destined to be king. To ensure the baby king would never rule, King Herod had all children under two killed.

But Herod would not touch Jesus. An angel of God warned Joseph in a dream to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt, where they would be safe from King Herod. They remained in Egypt until King Herod died. Again, an angel came to Joseph in a dream to announce it was safe to return to their homeland. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus settled in Nazareth.

God speaks to us in many ways. To Joseph, God spoke in a dream. Often God speaks to us through other people and events. Other times God speaks through stories, sermons, or Bible readings. Sometimes God speaks in the still, small voice inside of us that we hear through prayer and meditation.

Follow the stories of God's people in Egypt.

Sunday, Matthew 2:13-23, *Flight to Egypt*

Monday, Psalm 11:1-3, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Exodus 1:8-22, *Israelites are Oppressed*

Wednesday, Exodus 2:1-11, *Birth of Moses*

Thursday, Exodus 12:29-32, *Death of the Firstborn*

Friday, Hosea 11:1-12, *A Promise Out of Egypt*

Saturday, Jeremiah 31:15-17, *Rachel Laments Her Children*