

Flight in the Night

Matthew 2:12-18

EXPLORE

Read *The Action Bible* story on pages 538–541 or the *Action Bible New Testament* on pages 28–31 as a family. Then, read this true Bible story found in Matthew 2:12–18.

Here is what the story is about:

After the wise men worshipped Jesus, they were warned in dreams not to tell King Herod where Jesus was. Joseph also had a dream warning him to take Mary and Joseph to Egypt to keep them safe. They left quickly and escaped Herod's plan to harm Jesus. When King Herod realized that the wise men were not going to share Jesus' location, he became furious. He was afraid that Jesus would take his place as king. He ordered his soldiers to kill all of the baby boys in Bethlehem who were two years old or younger. But by the time the soldiers made it to Bethlehem to carry out this wicked plan, Jesus was safe in Egypt.

REMEMBER

Answer each question with information you learned from the story:

- › **Why did the wise men decide not to return to Jerusalem?** God told them in a dream that Herod could not be trusted. The wise men decided they should not return to Jerusalem, or they would be forced to tell Herod where Jesus was.
- › **What was Joseph told in his dream?** Joseph was told to escape to Egypt with Mary and Jesus because Herod wanted to kill Jesus.
- › **Why did Herod order for every boy in Bethlehem two years old and younger to be killed?** He was afraid that Jesus would grow up to take his throne. To ensure this did not happen, he ordered his soldiers to kill all boys two years old and younger. He did not realize that Jesus and his family had already escaped Bethlehem.

DISCUSS

In the beginning of the New Testament, many people encountered angels or received messages from God through dreams. God can speak to us in many different ways. Some of the ways He speaks to us are through the Holy Spirit, the Bible, people, and dreams or visions.

- › How has God spoken to you?
- › What did He say?
- › How did you know it was God's voice?

BLESSING

Read the blessing below or speak a blessing of your own over a loved one based on Romans 8:39:

(Child's name), may you always remember that God's ways are higher than your ways. May you trust in His wisdom and guidance, knowing that He has a perfect plan for your life. May you have peace in God's love and may His presence fill you with joy and hope.

ACT

God speaks to us in many ways. Often, we just need to open our hearts and minds to listen. Take some time as a family (15–20 minutes) to listen for God. Find a quiet space with as few distractions as possible and practice praying together or separately. Ask God to open your hearts and minds to receive what He has to say to you. After 5–10 minutes, come together and talk about what God is putting on your heart. Listening to God is a discipline that takes time and practice, so do not be discouraged if nothing comes to you right away. Keep listening!