Christmas 3: Joseph's Dream
Location: Nazareth, Israel

Bible: Bible: Matthew 1:18-25 (Read 1:18-23, Paraphrase 1:24-25) NIrV
18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph was a godly man. He did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.

20 But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That is because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All of this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet, 23 "The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel."—(Isaiah 7:14) The name Immanuel means "God with us."

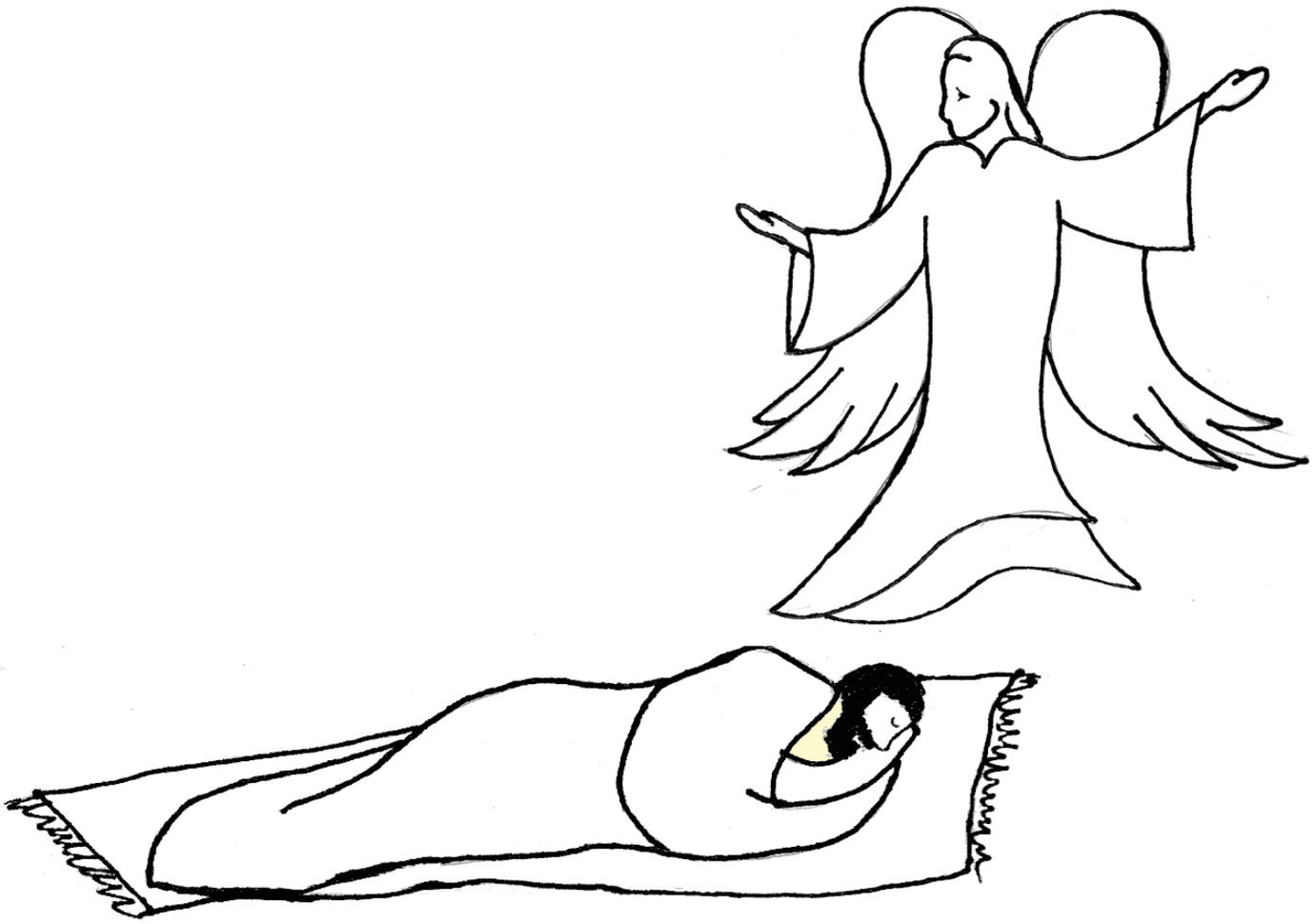
24 Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not make love to her until after she gave birth to a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.
Lesson: A long time ago in Israel a man and a women didn't get married like we do today. If someone, like Joseph, wanted to marry a woman, like Mary. He would go to her house and talk to her dad. If her dad thought he would be a good husband, he would say, "OK you can marry my daughter." The daughter, Mary, would have a choice to say "yes or no." If she said, "yes" they would be married and the man would go home and build a house for them. When the house was finished then they would have a wedding and go live in the house. When the Angel came to Mary and told her she was going to have baby Jesus, she was waiting for Joseph to finish their house. She had never even slept in the same house with him. So when Joseph found out Mary had a baby in her tummy, he didn't believe it was God's son. He thought she didn't want to marry him anymore and he was sad. Mary could be killed if anyone found out about the baby. So in his mind he was going to be quite about not getting married to her. (shhhh) Marry was very sad, but God had a plan. God saw Joseph's good heart inside and he sent an angel to tell Joseph that Mary had Jesus in her tummy. Joseph was very happy and got married to Mary just as they planed.

Important Point: You can trust God all the time. (Especially when you are sad)

Directions: Print out Joseph's Dream. Paint the angel with glue. Tear off pieces to tissue paper. Have the children place the tissue paper on the glue. You may need to add more glue. If there is a lot of time, have the children make blankets with tissue paper to place on top of Joseph.
Materials: glue, paint brushes, yellow and white tissue paper

Activity: Bring pillows and blankets and pretend to sleep.
Materials: list, of, materials

Joseph's Dream



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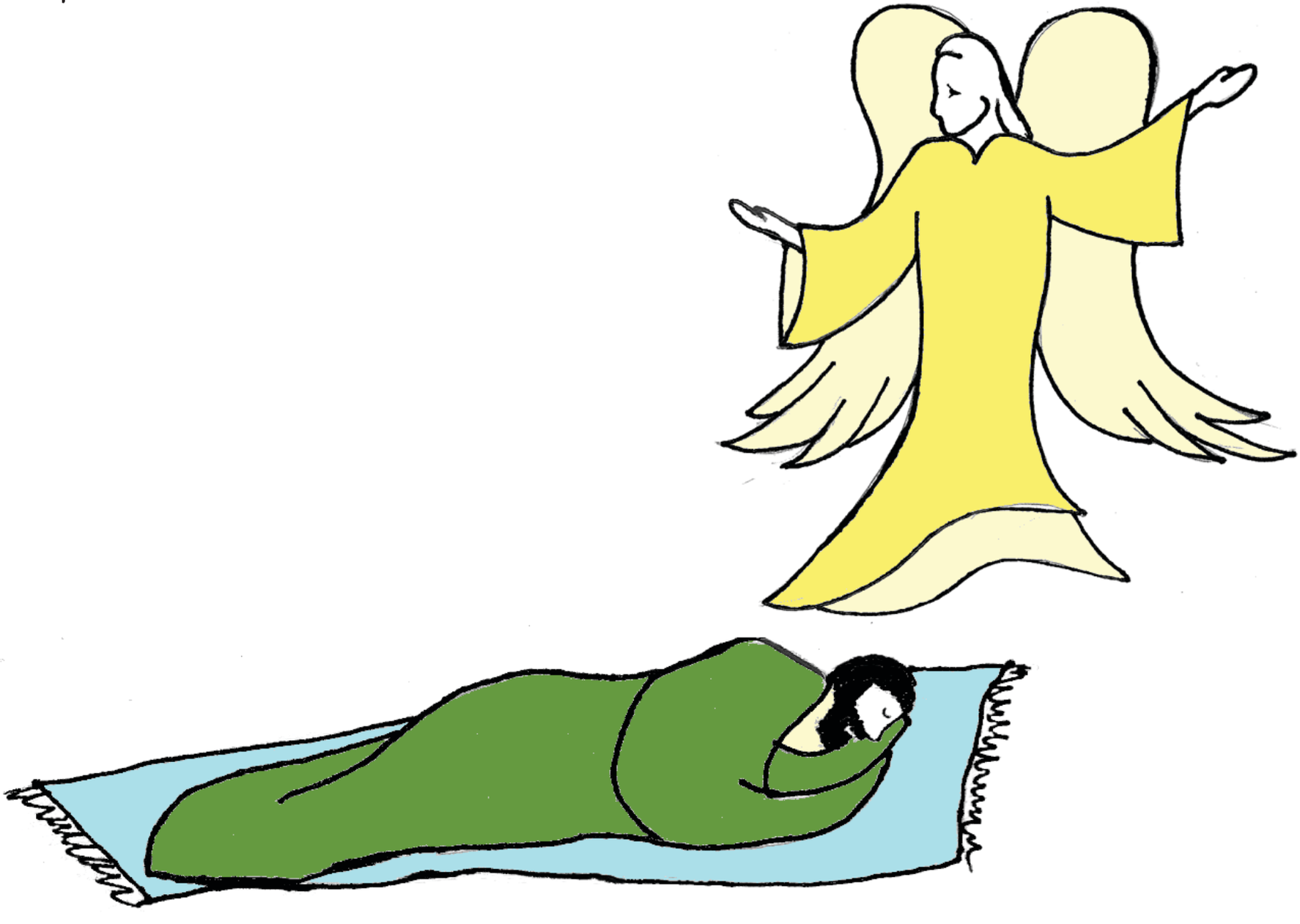
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