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Written by Nathanael Vissia

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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, December 18, 2016

4th Sunday in Advent

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [Matthew 1:18-25](#) [**Summary:** *Joseph Listens To God And Helps Raise Jesus*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

ASK (a.k.a. [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- I have a question for you: What can babies do? What are they good at doing? (They are good at making noise, making a mess, and looking cute...sometimes)
- So – in other words – babies can't do very much, can they?
- They can't walk, talk, clothe or feed themselves.
- They need help to do all of those things, right?
- Who usually helps babies do these things?
- Parents and family members and maybe even friends, right?
- It turns out that babies need a lot of help from other people just to stay alive.

TELL (a.k.a. [The Freeway](#))

- So at the start of today's scripture story, the soon-to-be-mother of Jesus, Mary, is in trouble.
- She's in trouble because she's going to give birth to Jesus sometime in the near future and she's not married.
- Not being married is a problem because when and where Mary lived, it was very hard for women to make money.
- Not having money meant it was very hard to buy and get the things that were needed to raise a baby.

- That's why Mary is in trouble.
- But in the rest of today's story, we hear how God speaks to Joseph in a dream and tells Joseph that he is to marry Mary and help her take care of and raise Jesus.
- Now, Joseph didn't HAVE to do what God told him to do.
- But because Joseph chose to do what God told him, both he and Mary were able to give baby Jesus all the things that we just talked about that babies need.
- And because Joseph did what God said, baby Jesus grew up to be adult Jesus.

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- Today's story reminds us that even Jesus was helpless and needed help.
- And in the same way that Joseph was able to help Jesus, so can we.
- By listening to God.
- As we pay attention to what God calls us to do, then we will know how God is calling us to help and care for those who are around us.
- And that is the Good News for today.
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer. (see next page)

CLOSING Prayer

Thank you for Mary and Joseph...

Thank you for Mary and Joseph...

...who listened to you...

...who listened to you...

...and were then able to help Jesus.

...and were then able to help Jesus.

Help us to do the same.

Help us to do the same.

Thank you and Amen.