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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, January 1, 2017

1st Sunday after Christmas

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [Matthew 2:13-23](#) **[Summary:** *God Gives Directions to Joseph and Mary* **]**

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed

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

- Good morning
- Can you tell me what this is? (hold up Maze #1). That's right! It's a maze.
- And what do you do with a maze?
- That's right! You figure out how to get from start to finish.
- What happens if you make a mistake? (You turn around. Or erase the mistake. Or draw a different line.)
- In other words, it's no big deal if you make a wrong turn, right?
- And that's part of what makes these mazes fun: It's a fun puzzle to figure out AND it's okay to make a mistake while you solve it.
- But what if the maze was like this?! (hold up Maze #2)
- See the little bombs at the dead ends?
- What if the maze EXPLODED and everything went KABLOOIE just because you made the wrong turn?
- That would make the maze a little bit less fun, don't you think?

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

- In today's scripture story, we hear that Joseph and Mary are in a bit of a scary maze themselves.

- They don't know where to go, but if they go the wrong way, then they will be killed by King Herod.
- But what we also hear in today's story is that God is telling Joseph and Mary where to go.
- In fact, we hear God tell them where to go three different times in today's story.
- And because Joseph and Mary listen to God's instructions and follow God's instructions, then they don't make a wrong turn and go KABLOOIE! [Hold up maze #3]
- Instead, God leads Joseph and Mary out of the maze and to a place where they can live safely and a place where Jesus can grow up.

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

- In other words, in today's story we see that God leads Joseph and Mary away from destruction and instead leads them towards life [hold up Maze #1].
- And guess what? God wants to do the same thing for us.
- That's the good news for today: When we listen to and follow God's directions, God will lead us to life; life that is better for all of us.
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God, thank you ...

Dear God, thank you ...

...for sharing with us...

...for sharing with us...

...how to live your better way.

...how to live your better way.

Help us to listen and do...

Help us to listen and do...

...just like Joseph and Mary did.

...just like Joseph and Mary did.

Thank you and Amen.