

“Average Joe Dad”

by
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- What** Joseph feels like there's a lot of pressure on him to be a good dad, considering that Jesus' "real" dad is God. As he lists all the ways he falls short, Mary reminds him that God chose them to be Jesus' parents, and that He was born to free all of us from our imperfections.
Themes: Father's Day, Fatherhood, Parenting, Heavenly Father, Chosen
- Who** Mary
Joseph
- When** Bible times
- Wear (Props)** A cradle or bassinet
A chair nearby
Paper and pencil
- Why** John 3:16, Matthew 1:18-25, 1 Peter 4:8
- How** Consider having everyone make and tear up a similar list tossing them into the air like confetti to celebrate the gift of God to his people when Jesus was born. You can even add Confetti cannons to add to the effect of celebrating with confetti.
- Time** Approximately 3 minutes

Mary is talking to an unseen Jesus in a crib/bassinet. Joseph is sitting in the background scribbling intently on a piece of paper.

Mary: *(baby talking to Jesus)* You like this story, don't you? Don't you? I do too. Yes I do. Yes I do! *(Beat; In a regular voice)* The night you were born was a very special night. You see, mama was so tired from our long trip to Bethlehem and when we finally arrived, there wasn't room for us anywhere! Nowhere except a stinky old stable. *(Baby voice)* That's right! You were born in a stinky smelly stable. *(Regular voice)* But, God was watching over us. A beautiful star was shining high in the sky right above us. We wrapped you up and laid you in a manger. It was really quite cozy. And then some shepherds came to see you. God sent a whole sky full of angels to tell them about your birth. And then some Magi came to visit you from far, far away. They had seen that bright and beautiful star in the sky and knew that God had promised to send the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords into the world and so they followed that star and came to see you...the Son of God. *(Baby talk)* My little boy. Yes you are! Yes you are my special little guy! *(Noticing Joseph writing)* Are you writing all of this down, Daddy?

Joseph: No. I'm writing down all the reasons I'm a terrible father.

Mary: What?! Joseph! *(Moving towards him)* You're a wonderful father.

Joseph: Are you kidding me? I'm not a wonderful father. I mean compared to his *real* father. His *Heavenly* Father. *(Holding up the list and shaking it a bit)* And I have the list here to prove it.

Mary: Joseph, you *are* his *real* father. God chose you...*you* to watch over him and be his daddy here on this earth.

Joseph: What was God thinking picking little old me? I'm nothing special. I'm just a carpenter. Just an ordinary man. I'm just...I'm just an...average Joe. *(Holding up the list and shaking it a bit)* And this list is all the reasons why God should have picked someone else for the job.

Mary: Joseph. *(Taking the list)* God didn't look at a list like this when he chose you. And in fact, our son, Jesus, he came to earth for lists like this. Not so he could *(shaking it at Joseph)* throw all our bad stuff back in our faces and tell us how bad we are but, so he could...

Mary takes it and tears it slowly in half. Joseph flinches a bit then gives a big sigh.

Joseph: Hey...that felt kinda good.

Mary: See? Now, come on...it's a special day. We should be celebrating.

Joseph: Yeah, you're right. How do you want to celebrate?

Mary tears up the list into even more tiny pieces. She hands half of them to Joseph who looks at her with confusion. Then she throws up the little pieces of paper like confetti beaming at Joseph.

Joseph understanding now, he tosses the pieces of paper like confetti as well.

They hug each other and smile looking in on a sleeping Jesus.

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