### DAY-4

#### A TRIP TO BETHLEHEM

**Theme - Holy Family** 

#### Bible verse

"Children, obey your parents in everything for this pleases the LORD" - **Col 3:20** 

#### **Aspiration**

Jesus, Mary, Joseph save us, protect us

### **Story time**

### <u>Jane's evening time</u>

One evening, Jane was watching TV and enjoying her favourite cartoon. Grandma asked Jane, "Jane, did you hear the church bells ringing? Don't you know it's the time to pray? Come and let us pray together." Our Jane is a good girl. She listened to grandma, turned the TV off and sat with grandma for prayer. At the end of the prayer, she heard grandma saying, "Jesus, Mary, Joseph come and protect our family, making it Holy in imitation of your family."

Jane thought, "why grandma is always saying this prayer?"

After prayer, she asked grandma, "Grandma, grandma, why you are always saying this prayer. I have heard you say this prayer when you engaged in other works too."

Grandma was so happy to tell Jane about Holy Family. She smiled and said, "My dear", Grandma showed her a picture of the Holy Family and continued, "This is the Holy Family, the model for all Christian families. See, here we have Baby Jesus, Mamma Mary and St Joseph. They lived in Nazareth. Joseph was a carpenter. They prayed together, loved each other, helped each other and lived happily and fully devoted to God."

Grandma asked little jane, "Do you know the story of the birth of Baby Jesus?"

"Yes, grandma i know it very well." Jane started to explain the story, "Baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Joseph and Mary placed him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn."

Grandma hugged Jane and said, "When you were born, lots of people came to see you, your uncles, aunties, cousins and many more. In the same way, Baby Jesus also had some special visitors... 3 kings and some shepherds."

Grandma continued, "Joseph is the protector and led his family in the worship of God in Nazareth. At every meal, Mary and Jesus looked to Joseph at the head of the table to offer the prayer. Saint Joseph was a layman, a normal guy, a carpenter. Mary was a housewife. Yet these two, in their ordinary vocations of marriage and parenthood, have changed the entire course of the world. The Holy Family shows us an example of how we ought to live. They loved God and each other. Every family should be like them. They should become 'schools of love', where we learn the art of how to receive and share love. My dear, Look at Jesus. He grew up like every other child of his age. He was sinless, ever patient, ever kind, and ever truthful. This is true. But, it is important to remember that he was also human – a baby and then a boy. Like all the kids, he had to learn to walk; to sleep

through the night; to share his toys; to say his prayers; to make up his mind, and to forgive others. He learned these things and more from Mary and Joseph. There is a lot we can learn from the Holy Family. That can help our own family grow in faith, love and respect. They are devoted to God and His calls on their lives. Love for God is the cornerstone of Holy Family."

Jane asked, "Grandma how can we make our family like the Holy Family?"

Grandma replied, "Dear, as a family our goal should be to draw each other closer to God. We should pray together and should pray for others too, forgive each other, live in unity and at the same time show respect and love to our parents and neighbours. Bible says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1)".

As grandma finished, Jane joined her hands and prayed, "JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH COME AND PROTECT OUR FAMILY, MAKING IT HOLY IN IMITATION OF YOUR FAMILY....."

Lets watch a Story of Holy Family: <a href="https://youtu.be/5E16fU0oy8g">https://youtu.be/5E16fU0oy8g</a>

### **VIRTUES**-

- \*LOVE,
- \*FAITH,
- \*OBEDIENCE,
- \*RESPECT,
- \*FOREGIVENESS

#### **INFANT JESUS (FROM INFANCY TO AGE 12)**

The Story of the Infant Jesus of Prague



Devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague is the devotion to the child Jesus. It is the veneration of son of God, whom in the form of an infant chose a stable for a palace, manger for a cradle and shepherds for worshippers. The statue of Infant Jesus of Prague originates in Spain.

The statue was owned by St. Therese, who greatly venerated Jesus childhood and spread the veneration throughout the Spain. She is said to have given the statue to her friend (Spanish duchess Marie Manriques)

whose daughter was getting married in Prague.

St. Teresa of Jesus always travelled with her statue of the Infant Jesus when she was establishing new convents. Her devotion to the Infant Jesus was established after an very interesting incident. One day Teresa of Avila was coming down the steps of her convent when she saw a beautiful young boy. The Child spoke to her and said: "Who are you?" Teresa answered: "I am Teresa of Jesus, who are you?" The Child answered: "I am Jesus of Teresa!" HISTORY OF INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

The statue of Infant Jesus was brought to Prague by Spanish duchess. She gave the statue to her daughter as a wedding gift. She greatly venerated the statue and received consolation and help from it many times and later she donated the statue to Carmelites Monastery.

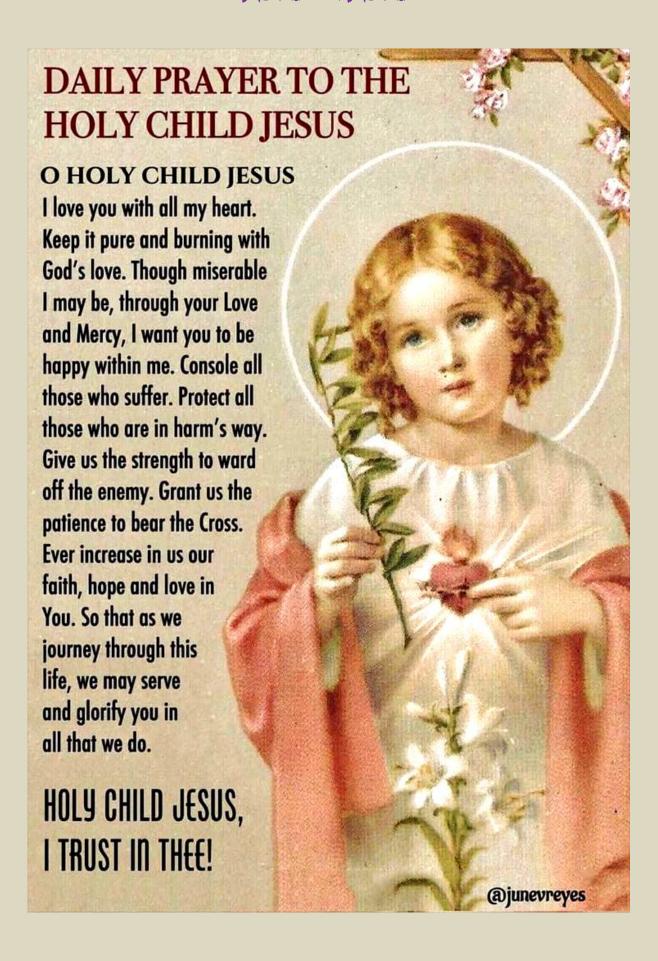
#### RESTORATION

Father Cyrillus in the monastery was very devoted to the statue of Infant Jesus. The Carmelites was fled from the Monastery as Prague seized from the Saxons. The Infant Jesus statue was damaged as discarded as junk. When the Carmelites are able to return to Prague, Father Cyrillus remembered the powerful intercession of the Infant Jesus and found the statue. With great sorrow he found that it's both arms had broken off. During prayer, he heard the Infant Jesus say'' Have mercy on me and i will have mercy on you. Give my arms and i will give you my peace. I will bless you as much as you will venerate me''. Later he found the funds to repair the statue.

Description of Infant Jesus Statue

Statue is made of wax and is about 19 inches height. The Infant Jesus is clothed in a royal mantle and has a beautiful jewelled crown on his head. The Infant Jesus right hand is raised in blessing. His left hand holds a globe signifying sovereignty. Heart of Devotion

A heart of devotion is a humbled heart; a heart with confidence such as that of child. It is knowing that, whatever we ask of Jesus, he will grant to us. Just like when our own children come to us we do what they ask of us out of love.



# **Bible quiz**

PRETEENS: Mathew 2:1-12

KIDS: Read Luke 2:41-52