

**Scripture:** Exodus 20:1-17 & Matthew 1:18-25  
**Singing:** 163:1-3 – 40:5-6 – 212:1-3 – 383:1-3 – 448:1, 4

### **God's message of hope for you**

#### **I. Even if you are an upright Christian, you will have 'dark nights'**

A. Joseph's life is an example of this: *an upright man in a dark night* (18)

B. Learn to embrace James 1:2-4:

*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations*

#### **II. If you meet setbacks following God, know God is sharpening you up!**

A. Joseph already was a gem, but God polished him by His providences (vs. 19)

B. God still uses trials as His instruments to change you for the better (24-25)

1. Scripture's gives plenty example

2. Pray for grace to embrace God's providential setbacks or trials

a. some are to correct you (Hebrews 12:7-13)

b. some are to grow you (Romans 8:28-29)

C. Our solid *hope* is that God is in control of every detail

#### **III. In your darkest moments God may reveal His most precious hope!**

A. Joseph's heart is first set at ease with God's revelation: vs. 20

B. Next God floods Joseph's heart with most comforting revelation: vs. 21-23

1. Here shame drained away from his heart

2. Here comfort flowed into his heart

#### **Reflection:**

A. What is your biggest troubler in your life?

B. What is God's message to you in those sweet names *Jesus Emmanuel*?

C. Behold God's glory: *Jesus was born to set His people free!*

Dear children,

Welcome to God's meeting house! That is what they used to call the church building. May God help you to listen, learn, and love Him! He is so good to come to our earth to bring hope! That is what we will hear about today. Pray as you listen that you may be like Joseph.

1. Joseph was really upset when Mary came back from her visit. Why?

2. How did Joseph show that he really loved Mary and God?

3. How do you show your love to God and others?

4. God told Joseph lots of things about the baby Mary was expecting. Let's see if you can fill in the missing words.

*Joseph, do not \_\_\_\_\_ to marry Mary.*

*Mary will give birth to a \_\_\_\_\_.*

*You shall call His Name \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_*

*Besides Jesus, He also will be called \_\_\_\_\_, which means God \_\_\_\_\_.*



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5. Can you finish the next sentences with a good ending?

*When you are a follower of God, you must not think you will never have troubles. For God uses troubles for many good reasons, like*

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What have you learned from this sermon,

a. about God: \_\_\_\_\_

b. about yourself: \_\_\_\_\_

**Think & talk about this with your parents:**

Jesus was born to deliver His people from sin. Does this mean you just have to wait for Him to do that? Or does He ask me to do something also?