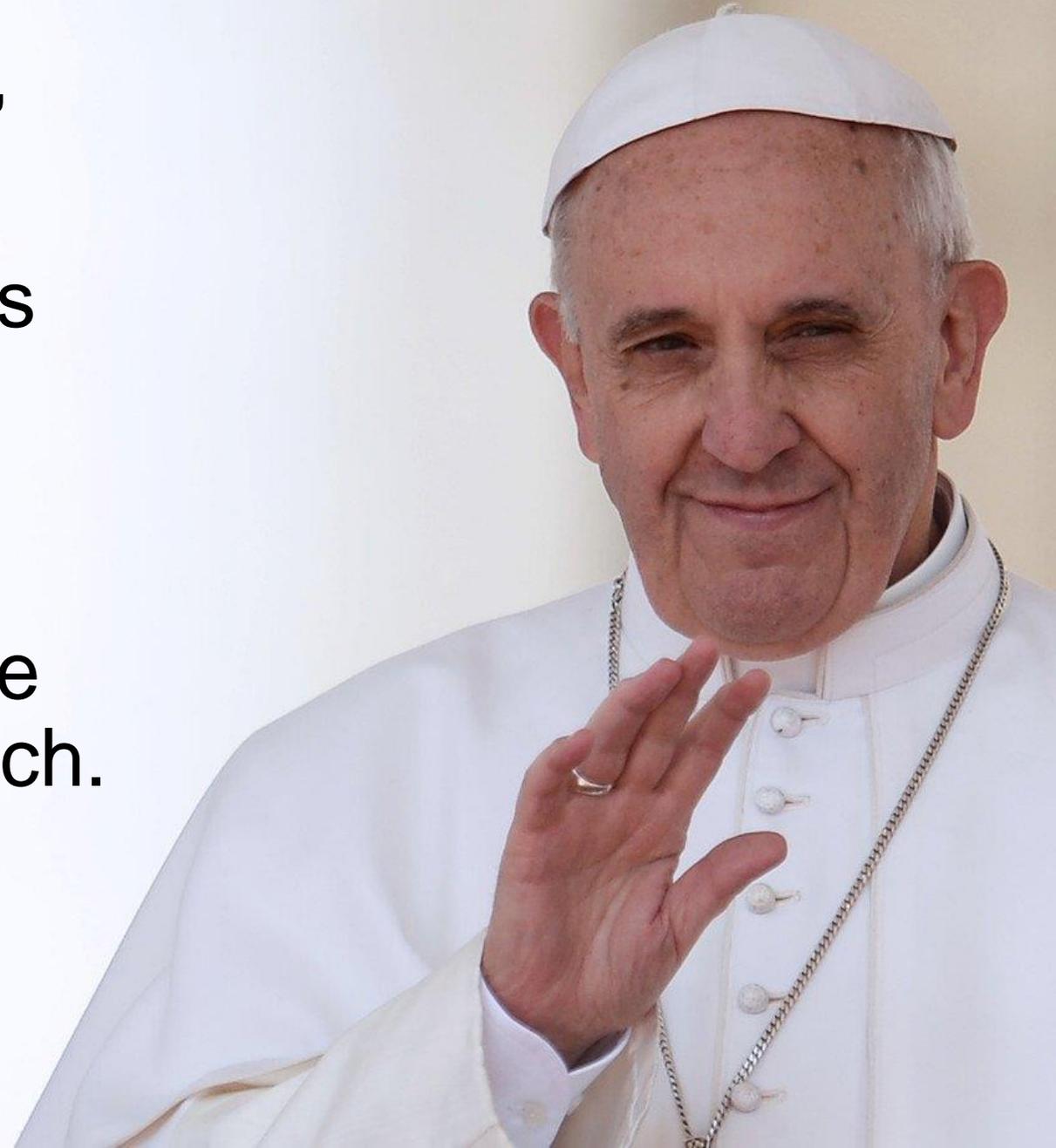




The Year of Saint Joseph

- Pope Francis declared this year, 'The Year of St Joseph' with his letter Patris Corde, which means 'With a Father's Heart'.
- 2020 also marks the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX proclaiming St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church.

Did you know St Joseph is also the Patron of Unborn Children, The Family, Fathers, Refugees, Immigrants and Happy Death.





- Pope Francis recognised St Joseph as a hidden figure of protection and care for his family.
- Like St Joseph, many people in the pandemic have made hidden sacrifices and carried out unseen acts of kindness.

Think about the nurses, carers, supermarket workers and your teachers, who choose to be patient and give care everyday.

Patris Corde



“Each of us can discover in Joseph - the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence - an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.

“Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

(Pope Francis)

Who was St Joseph?

- Everything we know about St Joseph is from the Bible.
- He was only mentioned 15 times.
- He had no spoken words in the gospels.



What we know about St Joseph



- Joseph was a descendant of David, the greatest king of Israel.
- He was betrothed to Blessed Mary.
- Mary became pregnant before they were married.
- This upset Joseph, but he did not want to tell others because he knew that people would shame and hurt Mary if they found out.
- One night, an angel of God visited Joseph in a dream and told him that Mary was expecting the son of the Holy Spirit.



The Nativity



Catholic
Children's
Society

- Without question, Joseph trusted and obeyed the Angel of God.
- Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem to enrol in the Census and this is where Jesus was born in a stable.
- When the angel came again to tell St Joseph that the family were in danger, he immediately took his family and fled to Egypt, leaving all his friends and everything he owned.
- After spending a few years in Egypt to keep his family safe, the Holy Family settled again at Nazareth.

Did you know God visited St Joseph in his dreams a total of four times?

A Working Father

- St Joseph loved Jesus and cared for him. He became his legal father and gave him his name.
- He supported his family in his work as a carpenter.
- He showed Jesus the value of working hard and being patient.
- St Joseph offered two turtledoves at the presentation of Jesus because he was too poor to afford a larger sacrifice.



Happy Death

- In the scriptures, Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, death or resurrection.
- We do not know much about his death, but he is often described as the Patron of Happy Death because Mary and Jesus were there by his side.
- Although unlikely, it has been said that he lived until he was 110 years old.



Symbols of St Joseph



- **White lilies** – To represent his purity and obedience to God
- **Star of David** – A symbol of the Jewish people
- **Two Turtle Doves** – To represent the sacrifice at the presentation of Jesus
- **The Letter J** – To represent his name
- **Sleeping St Joseph** – To represent God speaking to St Joseph in his dreams
- **Flowering Staff** – To represent he had been chosen by God
- **Baby Jesus** – To represent his role as foster father to the Son of God
- **Carpenter tools** – To represent his job





Sleeping St Joseph

"I like St Joseph very much. He is a strong man of silence. On my desk I have a statue of St Joseph sleeping. While sleeping he looks after the church. When I have a problem or difficulty, I write on a piece of paper and put it under his statue so he can dream about it. "

(Pope Francis)

What can we learn from St Joseph?



- Pope Francis said 'Our world today needs fathers.'
- St Joseph shows us the important role that all parents play in the lives of children, whether they are biological, adoptive or spiritual.
- St Joseph used his protection and compassion to care for his family, even when faced with challenges.
- Even though he was described in the scriptures as 'just a man', St Joseph shows us the value of working hard, trusting and accepting others.

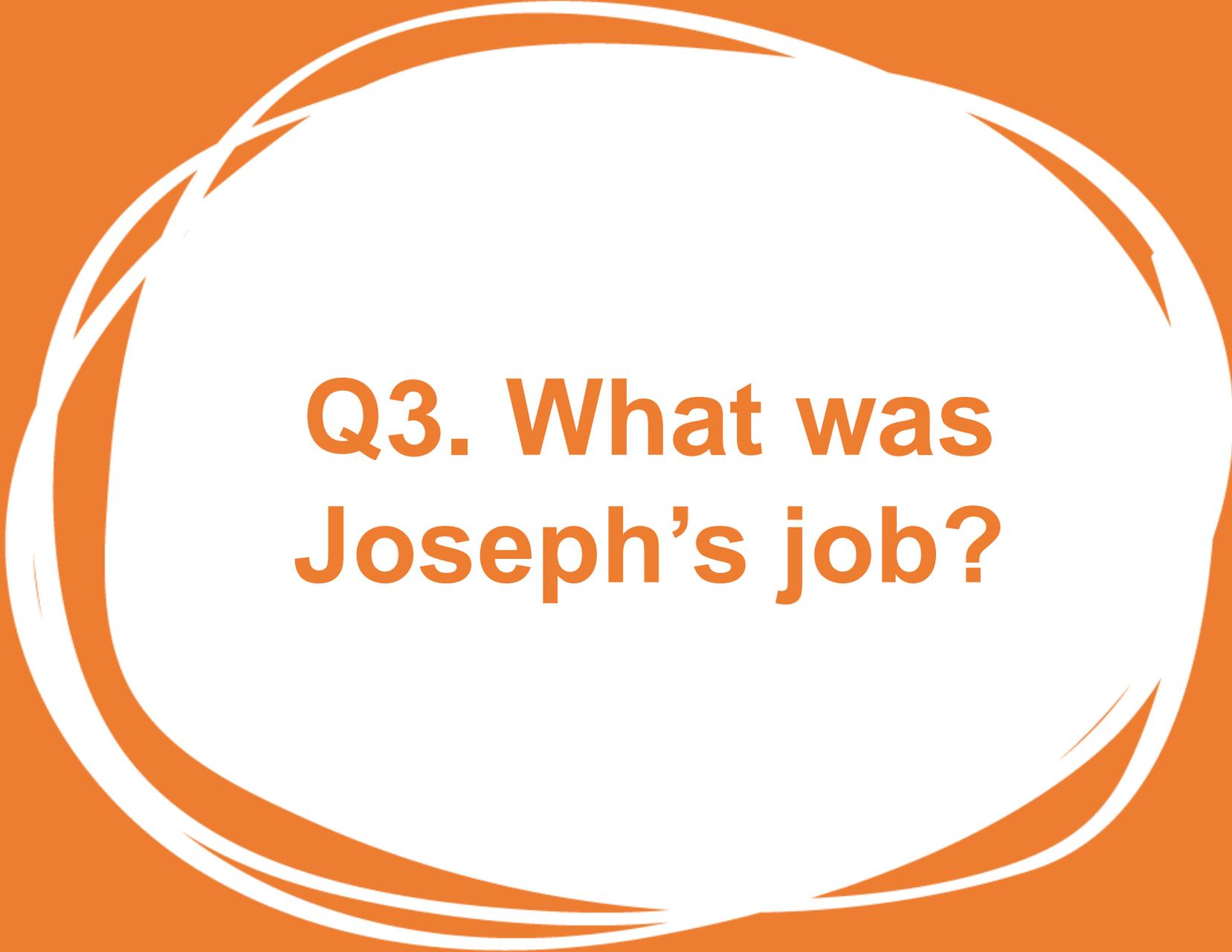




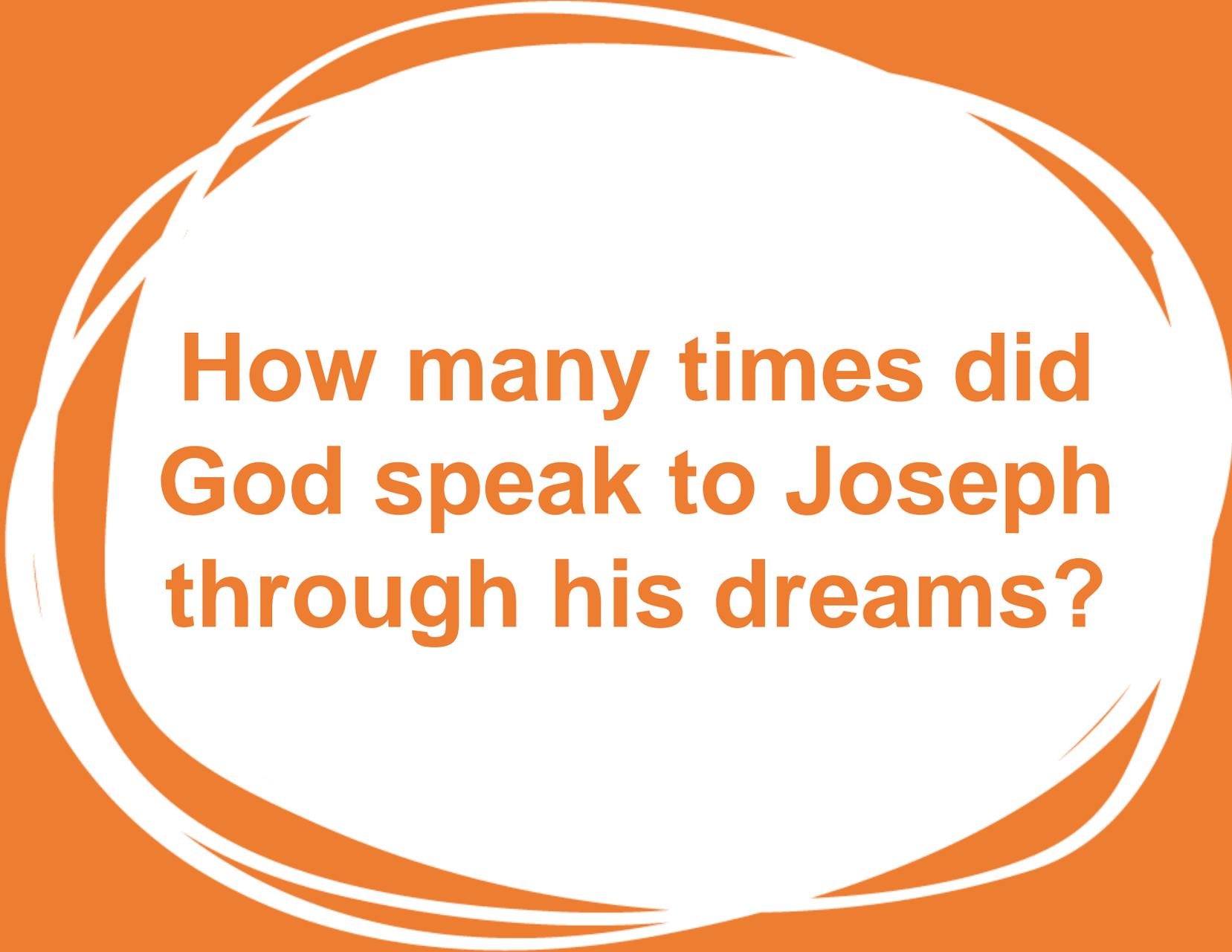
Quick Quiz

**Q1. How many
times is Joseph
mentioned in the
Bible?**

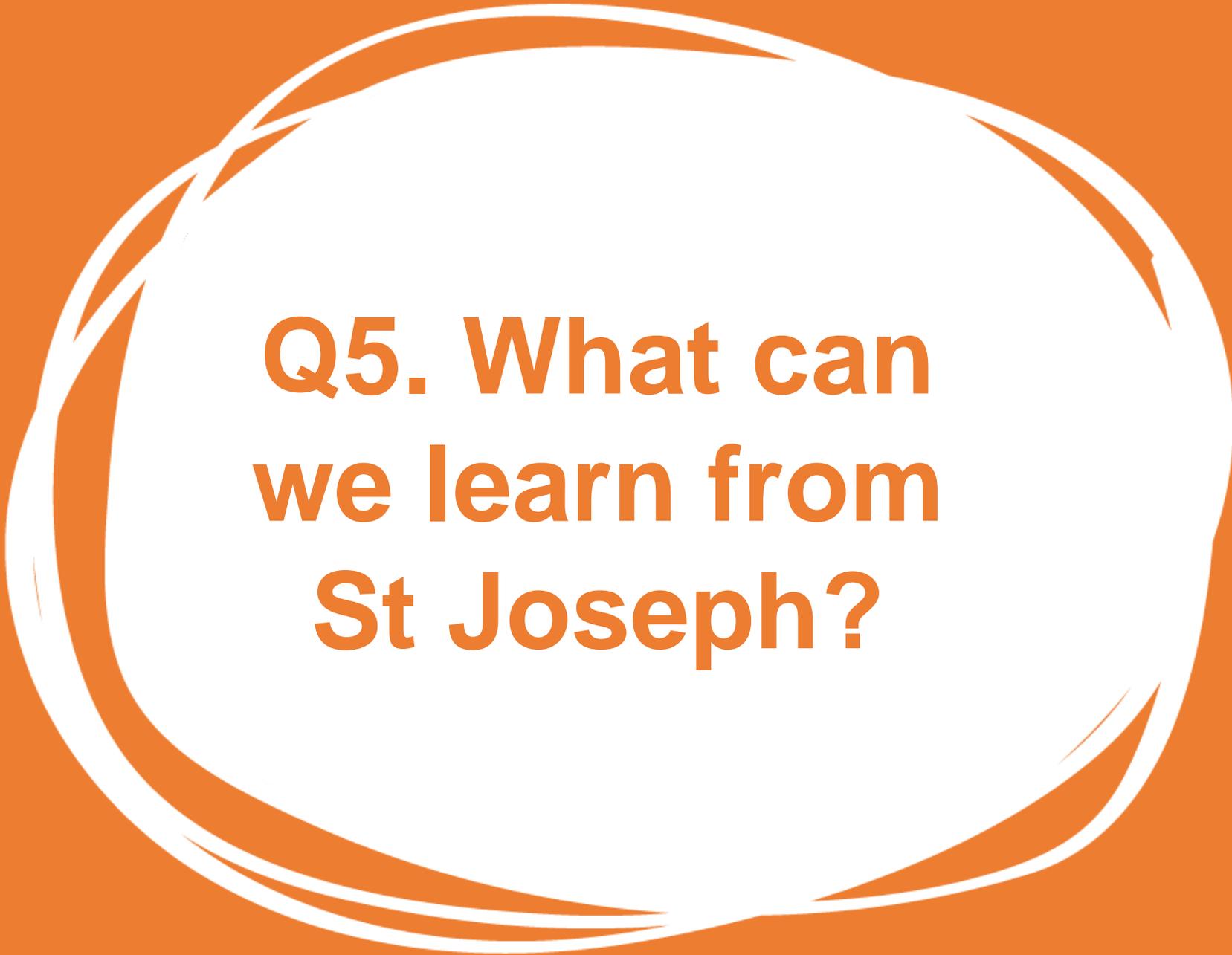
**Q2. Who was
Joseph a
descendant of?**



**Q3. What was
Joseph's job?**



**How many times did
God speak to Joseph
through his dreams?**



**Q5. What can
we learn from
St Joseph?**

Answers

Q1 Answer



15

Q2 Answer



David

Q3 Answer



Carpenter

Q4 Answer



Four

Q5 Answer



- To be thankful for 'hidden' people who help others from the shadows.
 - To care for our families.
- The value of working hard, trusting and accepting others.