**FATHERS AND SONS**

**By Alastair and Rod**

*Based on Luke Chapter 2, this sketch looks at the challenges Joseph faced being father to Jesus. A good sketch for Fathers Day.*

*CAST*

*Host Typical gameshow host*

*Jesus Ideally played by a teenager*

*Joseph Ideally played by someone old enough to be father of ‘Jesus’*

*The idea here is for the host to become more and more confused and amazed, as the answers from Joseph & Jesus go on. He ends up sympathising with Joseph that bringing up Jesus would not have been easy when seen from a human point of view.*

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| HOST | Hello, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to this week’s edition of “Fathers and Sons”.  Last week featured the Princes Charles and Harry. In a closely fought game, Prince Charles just edged ahead in the end. It seems he knew more about Harry’s young fiancé than Harry knew about his father’s shortcrust pastry. It was a case of one soggy bottom too many!  For those joining us for the first time, each week we have a father and son in the studio. Today it is the turn of Joseph and Jesus, from Nazareth.  And the aim of the game is to find out who knows most about the other person. |
| Jesus | More. |
| HOST | I am sorry? You want more? I thought your name was Jesus, not Oliver. |
| Jesus | No, since there are just two of us you should be using the comparative. |
| HOST | The comparative? |
| Jesus | Yes, so it should be that “the aim is to find out who knows more about the other person” – not most. |
| HOST | OK. We clearly something of a child genius with us today. A bit of a know-all, eh Joseph? |
| Joseph | He has certainly impressed his teachers. |
| HOST | Right. So, anyway, let’s get going, with a couple of gentle questions. Joseph please put on the headphones so you cannot hear Jesus’ answer. *[Joseph puts on headphones]*  Jesus, what does your father do for a living? |
| Jesus | My earthly father is a carpenter |
| HOST | *‘Earthly father’?* You mean Joseph here? |
| Jesus | Yes. |
| HOST | *[Signalling to Joseph to remove headphones]* OK, Joseph, what do you do for a living? |
| Joseph | I am a carpenter. |
| HOST | Correct! So that is one point to Jesus.  Now here is one for you, Joseph. Jesus, please put on the headphones.*[Jesus puts on headphones]*  Joseph, what details have you told Jesus about his birth? |
| Joseph | Well, it was in a cowshed in Bethlehem, with shepherds coming down from the hills and singing God’s praises. |
| HOST | *In a cowshed – with shepherds singing God’s praises.*  That sounds a bit out of the ordinary.  I can’t wait to hear what Jesus says. *[Signalling to Jesus to remove headphones]*  Jesus, I asked your father what he has told you about your birth. |
| Jesus | *My earthly father* has often spoken about the cowshed in Bethlehem, with shepherds coming down from the hills and singing praises to my father in heaven*.* |
| HOST | Is the right answer, I think.  So the score is 1-1.  Jesus, back to you. Headphones on please Joseph. *[Joseph puts on headphones]*  Why did your parents give you the name Jesus? |
| Jesus | It was the name the angel gave to Joseph, before I was born. It means saviour. |
| HOST | *Ok, so now we’ve got angels*. You two are certainly throwing up some surprises  Well we had better see what Joseph says. *[Signalling to Joseph to remove headphones]*  Joseph, why did you give Jesus his name. |
| Joseph | Oh, that was what the angel told me to name him. |
| HOST | Which, incredibly, is the right answer.  So now we come to the final question. And it is for you Joseph. Jesus, please put on the headphones. *[Jesus puts on headphones]*  Joseph, has there ever been a time when you can remember being really cross with Jesus? |
| Joseph | Well, yes. It was just last year. After the Passover festival, we headed home with our families and friends. We thought Jesus was with us, but he wasn’t! We were so worried – we rushed back to Jerusalem and searched high and low for him. |
| HOST | Where did you find him? |
| Joseph | In the temple. And my wife Mary tore him off a strip for making us so anxious. |
| HOST | Fair enough. What parent wouldn’t.  So let us see whether Jesus remembers being scolded. *[Signalling to Jesus to remove headphones]*  Jesus, I asked your father.. er ..that is, Joseph, whether there has been a time when he was really cross with you. |
| Jesus | There was the occasion when they found me in the temple. |
| HOST | So you admit to a little bit of teenage rebelliousness? |
| Jesus | Actually I was only twelve so not technically a teenager. |
| HOST | OK. So to be precise, you admit to a bit of twelve-year-old rebelliousness. |
| Jesus | No, I did explain to my parents at the time. I was surprised they’d had to look for me. I thought they’d know that I had to be in my Father’s house. |
| HOST | In your Father’s house? In Jerusalem? Joseph, do you have a townhouse in Jerusalem as well as your home in Nazareth? Your carpentry business must be doing well. |
| Jesus | No, no. I mean the Temple. The house of God. My Father’s house. |
| HOST | I think that is the first time we have ever had someone on the show who claimed to be the son of God.  Joseph you have my sympathy. This young man is very precocious indeed. |
| Joseph | Yes it is not easy – but Mary, and I see it as an enormous privilege. |
| HOST | Rather you than me, Joseph. Rather you than me.  And all in all, I think we have to declare Jesus the winner. He really does seem to know it all.  So there we have it folks. We have had cowsheds, singing shepherds, talking angels and a Father in heaven.  We look forward to returning to normality next week when, once again we play Fathers And Sons. |

*THE END*