

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.

HOST	<p>Hello, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to this week's edition of "Fathers and Sons".</p> <p>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!</p> <p>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.</p> <p>And the aim of the game is to find out who knows most about the other person.</p>
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. <i>[Joseph puts on headphones]</i> Jesus, what does your father do for a living?
Jesus	My earthly father is a carpenter
HOST	' <i>Earthly father</i> '? You mean Joseph here?
Jesus	Yes.
HOST	<i>[Signalling to Joseph to remove headphones]</i> 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. <i>[Jesus puts on headphones]</i> 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	<i>In a cowshed – with shepherds singing God's praises.</i> That sounds a bit out of the ordinary. I can't wait to hear what Jesus says. <i>[Signalling to Jesus to remove headphones]</i> Jesus, I asked your father what he has told you about your birth.
Jesus	<i>My earthly father</i> 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. <i>[Joseph puts on headphones]</i> 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	<i>Ok, so now we've got angels.</i> You two are certainly throwing up some surprises Well we had better see what Joseph says. <i>[Signalling to Joseph to remove headphones]</i> 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. <i>[Jesus puts on headphones]</i> 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. <i>[Signalling to Jesus to remove headphones]</i> 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.

	<p>And all in all, I think we have to declare Jesus the winner. He really does seem to know it all.</p> <p>So there we have it folks. We have had cowsheds, singing shepherds, talking angels and a Father in heaven.</p> <p>We look forward to returning to normality next week when, once again we play Fathers And Sons.</p>
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