

# Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem



## A Kids Friendly Advent resource 2010

For more information or advice:



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- **A map** - of Palestine in Jesus' time.
- **Sample email** - sent to children and families promoting this Advent activity.
- **The Mary and Joseph package** – that went to homes (pic of Mary and Joseph figurines in their basket and copy of brochure that accompanied them).

## INTRODUCTION:

On the Sunday before Advent I introduced Mary and Joseph (knitted figurines in basket – see pic) to the children in church. I asked them if they knew who Mary and Joseph were, where they were going to etc.

I showed them on a map how far it was from Nazareth to Bethlehem and explained that they only had one donkey and Joseph would have to walk all that way.

I explained that it would be a very long and uncomfortable journey especially as Mary is pregnant with baby Jesus. I said they would probably need to rest a lot and asked if any of them would like Mary and Joseph to come and visit them at their house and have a rest for the night.

We handed around a clipboard with a template on it where families could sign up to host Mary and Joseph for a night.

I also sent out an email to all families in the weeks before Advent started.

It is good to have someone “manage” this journey by checking that families are receiving the couple, as they can get stuck in one place.

We had a few glitches our first time but will do it again this year because many families reported that their children loved it and that they got to meet new people from the church in the delivery and drop-off.

It doesn't need to be restricted to families with children. Any age can participate and it is good for building all age relationships.

# Palestine in the Time of Jesus, A.D. 6 to 30



**Email advertising this Advent activity sent to all families with young children.**

**WOULD you like to host Mary and JOSEPH as they journey to Bethlehem?**



Mary and Joseph have a long and arduous journey ahead of them. Families of our church are offering to look after them for one night during the Advent season before delivering them to their next destination on their journey.

This is an opportunity to help children reflect on the true meaning and spirit of Christmas during this busy season.

Mary and Joseph will be accompanied by a brochure with the story of their journey (Luke 1:26-38 and Luke 2:1-5) and a short prayer to share with your children and the visiting family.

If you would like to be part of this Advent journey, please add your name to the template attached.

For more details contact [jill@sthelierschurch.org.nz](mailto:jill@sthelierschurch.org.nz), 09-5850959.

# Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem



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## Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem



Mary and Joseph have a long and arduous journey ahead of them. Thank you for offering to look after them for one night and then delivering them to their next destination on their journey tomorrow.

Place Mary and Joseph in a prominent place in your home to remind you of the true meaning and spirit of Christmas during this busy season.

Please share a prayer and their story in Luke 1:26–38 and Luke 2:1–5 with those you visit. (Involve children in the readings, prayers and hospitality.)

## **An Angel Tells about the Birth of Jesus    *Luke 1:26-38***

<sup>26</sup>One month later God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee <sup>27</sup>with a message for a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David.

<sup>28</sup>The angel greeted Mary and said, "You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup>Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant. <sup>30</sup>Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, <sup>31</sup>and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. <sup>33</sup>He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup>Mary asked the angel, "How can this happen? I am not married!"

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a son, even though she is old. No one thought she could ever have a baby, but in three months she will have a son. <sup>37</sup>Nothing is impossible for God!"

<sup>38</sup>Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said." And the angel left her.

## **Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem    *Luke 2: 1 - 5***

<sup>1</sup>About that time Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books. <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup>These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family.

<sup>5</sup>Mary was engaged to Joseph and travelled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby.

A prayer  
for Mary and  
Joseph



Dear Lord

Tonight (today) we think of Mary and Joseph on their long and frightening journey to Bethlehem.

Thank you for being with them. And thank you for their faith in You.

Help us to trust that You are with us too when we face hard and challenging times.

And please help us remember the true meaning of Christmas as we end this year and plan for our parties, presents and holidays.

Amen



We would like to host Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem

| Date               | Name | Address | Phone |
|--------------------|------|---------|-------|
| Sunday 28 Nov      |      |         |       |
| Monday 29 Nov      |      |         |       |
| Tuesday 30 Dec     |      |         |       |
| Wednesday 1 Dec    |      |         |       |
| Thursday 2 Dec     |      |         |       |
| Friday 3 Dec       |      |         |       |
| Saturday 4 Dec     |      |         |       |
| Sunday 5 Dec       |      |         |       |
| Monday 6 Dec       |      |         |       |
| Tuesday 7 Dec      |      |         |       |
| Wednesday 8 Dec    |      |         |       |
| Thursday 9 Dec     |      |         |       |
| Friday 10 Dec      |      |         |       |
| Saturday 11 Dec    |      |         |       |
| Sunday 12 Dec      |      |         |       |
| Monday 13 Dec      |      |         |       |
| Tuesday 14 Dec     |      |         |       |
| Wednesday 15 Dec   |      |         |       |
| Thursday 16 Dec    |      |         |       |
| Friday 17 Dec      |      |         |       |
| Saturday 18 Dec    |      |         |       |
| Sunday 19 Dec      |      |         |       |
| Monday 20 Dec      |      |         |       |
| Tuesday 21 Dec     |      |         |       |
| Wednesday 22 Dec   |      |         |       |
| Thursday 23 Dec    |      |         |       |
| Friday 24 December |      |         |       |

Please phone the next recipient of Mary and Joseph to arrange a suitable time to visit and deliver them.