

Mary and JOSEPh journey to Bethlehem



A Kids Friendly Advent Resource

For more information or advice:



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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@kidsfriendly.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*

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

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

²⁹Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant. ³⁰Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, ³¹and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end."

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

³⁵The 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. ³⁶Your 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. ³⁷Nothing is impossible for God!"

³⁸Mary 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*

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

³Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. ⁴So 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.

⁵Mary 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.