

Advent - A long journey

Have you ever been on a long journey? Maybe on holiday or to visit your family in another part of the country?

How did you travel? In a car or on a train or in a plane even?



What are the best and worst things about a long journey?

Today we're thinking about Mary and Joseph and the long journey that they went on. Try this quiz to see how much of the story you know before you read it in the Bible:

Story Quiz:

When it was nearly time for Jesus to be born, someone called for a census to count the people. Was it:

- a) King Herod
- b) Emperor Augustus
- c) Governor Quirinius
- d) Pontius Pilate?

He wanted everyone to be counted and so he ordered that:

- a) Everyone had to travel to Rome
- b) Everyone had to go to the local synagogue
- c) Everyone had to be at home on a certain day
- d) Everyone had to go to their home town

So Mary and Joseph had to leave the place where they were living and go to:

- a) Bethlehem
- b) Jerusalem
- c) Nazareth
- d) Jericho

Joseph had to go there because he was from the family of:

- a) King Saul
- b) King David
- c) Samson
- d) Daniel

Mary was engaged to Joseph and travelled with him to Bethlehem. They travelled there:

- a) In a car
- b) On a bus
- c) On a donkey
- d) By walking

When they arrived in Bethlehem, they had trouble finding a room to spend the night because:

- a) They didn't have enough money to pay
- b) They arrived after dark
- c) They were dirty and smelly after travelling so far
- d) Everywhere was already full of other guests

Jesus was born in a stable and Mary wrapped him up to keep him warm and cosy.

Then Jesus slept:

- a) In Mary's arms
- b) In Joseph's arms
- c) On prickly hay
- d) In a clean bed

Read Luke 2:1-7 to see if you chose the right answers!

It was a long way between Nazareth and Bethlehem, around 100 miles. That would take about 2 hours in a car but at least 4 days to walk there. Mary was almost ready to have her baby; can you imagine what the journey must have been like for her?

I wonder if Mary and Joseph would have wanted to give up and not do what God was asking them to do?

Mary and Joseph may have had their doubts but they did as God asked. We always have a choice too; God will never force us to do anything.

Pray

Draw around your feet on a piece of paper and then write your name inside the foot outline. Ask God to help you as you continue on the journey of life, you may like to write a prayer inside the foot outline, or tell God what you are worried about (if there is anything) or ask God to guide you as you follow him.

Make

You might like to think about making a nativity scene. You could start this week by making Mary and Joseph, and maybe an angel and an innkeeper. And then add to it over the next few weeks. Maybe use cardboard tubes, Lego or cut out figures from card, use your imagination and what you have to hand!



Play pin (blu-tac) the tail on the donkey:

Draw a large picture of a donkey on a piece of paper but don't give the donkey a tail! Make a tail for each person playing; you could cut them out of paper or card or plait some wool. Find a blindfold and some blu-tak. Take it in turns to be blindfolded, turn around three times and then try to stick the tail on the donkey! See who can get the tail the closest to where it should be.



