



ST. MARY + ST. MICHAEL PARISH COMMUNITY

NEWMARKET - EXETER | NEW HAMPSHIRE

ELEMENTARY FAMILY FORMATION RESOURCES: December 2021

FAMILY PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you for the season of advent as we prepare our hearts and homes for the celebration of Christmas, the birth of Jesus. Thank you for the gifts of love, joy, peace, and hope that Jesus brings. Help us to remember every day the gift that Jesus is to us and share him with others. Amen.

TAKE A JOURNEY IN YOUR MIND:

Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be counted in the census. The journey probably took several days with them walking or riding a donkey the whole way. We can't relate to an intense first century road trip like that, but most of us can relate to long journeys of some kind. Think about the last time you took a long road trip in a car, or spent hours flying somewhere. It probably took quite a bit of planning and packing, there were some moments of discomfort, and by the end you just wanted to get to your destination so you could stretch out and relax, or have some fun. Keep those feelings in mind as you read this Bible story and do the activities. Happy Advent!

READ & WATCH:

Luke 2:1-20

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5m2GE6DFeM>

and/or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kD8GqTPJebI>

WONDER:

- I wonder how long it took Mary and Joseph to get to Bethlehem.
- I wonder what their journey was like.
- I wonder if they knew Jesus would be born while they were in Bethlehem.
- I wonder what their favorite part of traveling was.
What do you like best about traveling? Do you have a favorite travel memory?
- I wonder what their least favorite part of the journey was.
Is there something you don't like about traveling? You can ask God to help with that!

Wonder continued on page 2 >>



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WONDER (continued):

- I wonder what it was like to travel a long way and not have a place to stay.
- I wonder what the place where Mary and Joseph stayed was like.
- I wonder how Mary and Joseph prepared for Jesus to come.
How do you prepare for Christmas?
- I wonder what the shepherds thought when they saw the angels.
- I wonder what Mary and Joseph thought when the shepherds came to see their new baby, Jesus.
- Do you wonder anything else about the story?

DO: Choose one or more of the following activities to do with your family...

- Look at the Christmas cards you have received and say a prayer for the people or families who sent them.
- Call or Zoom with a family member or friend and tell stories about journeys or Jesus.
- Make Christmas Cards for the homebound, those in assisted living or nursing homes.
- Bake Bread for Yourselves or Others
Advent is about waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus. In this Bible story Mary and Joseph are on their way to Bethlehem and they're waiting for the birth of their son. They might have wanted to hurry and rush to Bethlehem, but had to be careful because of Mary's pregnancy. Maybe they wished Jesus had been born before they had left so that they would have been surrounded by familiar faces and in the safety of their own home, but babies can't be rushed! They come in their own time!

To practice waiting for something that you can't rush, bake some yeast bread as a family. You'll have to activate the yeast, mix the ingredients, knead the dough, wait for it to rise, punch it down, wait for it to rise again, bake it, and wait for it to cool before you can finally enjoy it! While you're eating your bread talk about what Mary and Joseph might have eaten on their way to Bethlehem - they probably baked some bread like this before they left and packed it. Here is a bread recipe to try:

<https://butterwithasideofbread.com/homemade-bread/>

LOYOLA PRESS CONTENT FOR DECEMBER FAMILY FORMATION

In your child's book, please complete:

Kindergarten = Liturgical Sessions ADVENT; Grades 1-5 = Unit 2, Session 10

Remember to use the QR codes in the books for audio, video, and fun activities!