

UNIT 1: JOY • LESSON 3:

“Jesus Brings Joy”

LUKE 2:1-7



With all my heart I glorify the
Lord! In the depths of who I
am I rejoice in
God my savior.
Luke 1:46-47

ADVENT:

The season of Advent is the 4 weeks before Christmas (Nov. 29-Dec. 24.) Each Sunday we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus and focus on a special word and light candles in our Advent wreath. Today we light the candles of HOPE, JOY & PEACE. We explored joy last week (and it is our word for this 4-week unit), this week our word is **PEACE**. Peace is a feeling of calm and contentment and that all is right with the world.

BIBLE STORY:

In today's Bible story, we learn of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and celebrate the birth of Jesus.



The man in power, the emperor Caesar Augustus, wanted everyone to go to their hometowns to be counted. Joseph was from Bethlehem, so he and Mary had to go to Bethlehem. It was a hard trip, walking from Nazareth all the way to Bethlehem, and Mary was going to have her baby very soon! Bethlehem was very crowded and busy when they arrived. That night, baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in cloth and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the guestroom.

The people in Bethlehem weren't able to do much for Mary and Joseph but they did offer them a place to stay in the stable and I'm sure they helped Mary with the birth and helped them in the days after Jesus was born. What can you do to help someone this week?

Dear God,
We pray for peace in our world. Help us to love one another, and to be nice to all people. Help us be peace makers, so that we might bring renewed peace to our family and friends and show others how to live peacefully.
Amen

WONDER QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

- What brings you peace?
- What is your definition of peace?
- In today's story Mary and Joseph traveled approximately 90 miles by foot. It took about 10 days. They must have been tired but they still found joy. Have you taken a long hike? How did you feel afterward?
- Jesus was born in a stable where the animals were kept. What do you think it was like? What farm animals can you name that might have been there?
- **If you haven't already, grab some paper - staple the pages together to make a booklet and create an Advent journal. Decorate the cover and write down things inside that make you feel HOPE and JOY and PEACE each day.**

Jesus Brings Joy

Mary and Joseph's Feelings

Instructions

Read the Bible story (Luke 2:1-7), and then reflect on it in the spaces provided.

What do you think Mary was thinking as they traveled?

What do you think Joseph was thinking as they traveled?

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they couldn't find a place to stay?

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when Jesus was born?



Jesus Brings Joy

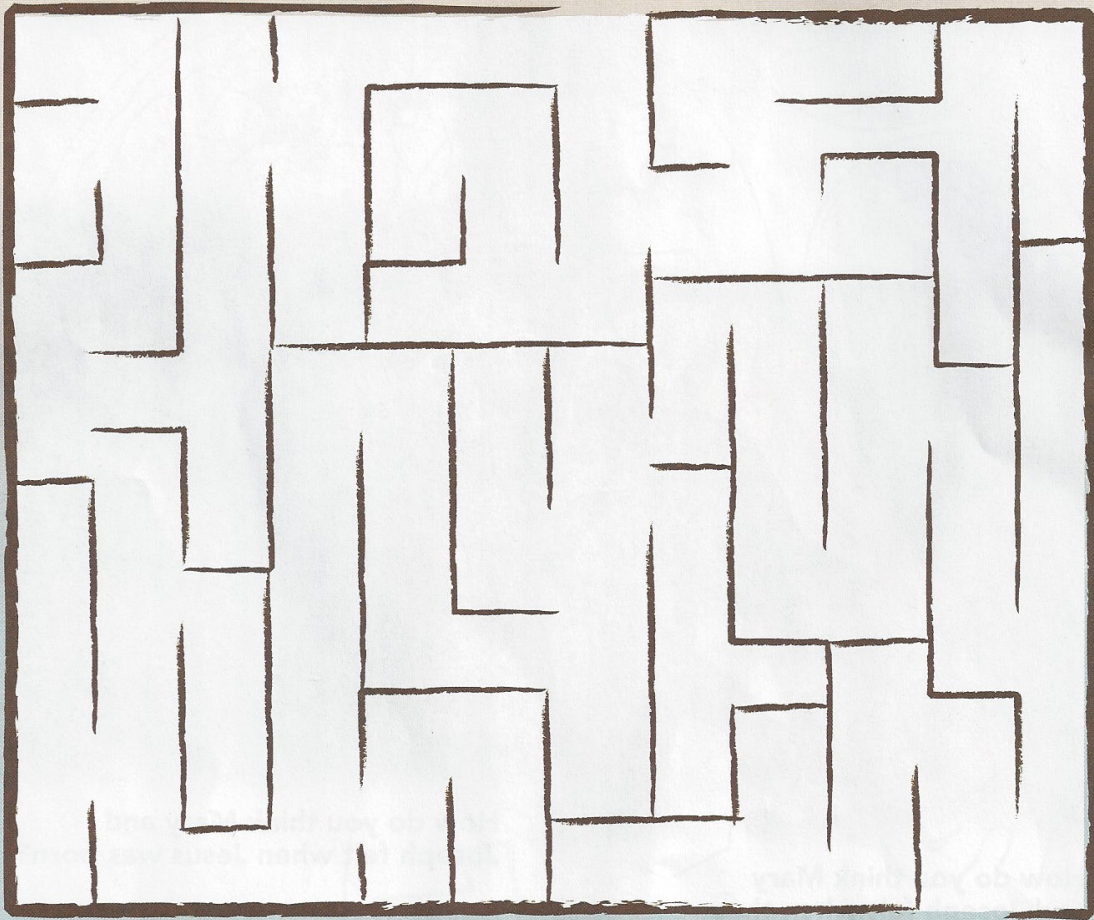
Road to Bethlehem

CELEBRATE
WONDERTM
Session 3

Instructions

Solve the maze by tracing Mary and Joseph's path from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Nazareth



Bethlehem





Advent Wreath

Color a candle for the special days of Advent.

November 29 - HOPE

December 6 - JOY

December 13 - PEACE

December 20 - LOVE

December 24 - JESUS