

Journey to Bethlehem

Bible Verse

"To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."
(Luke 2:11)

Bible Story Reference

Luke 2:1-21; Micah 5:2-5a

Bible Background

The story of Jesus' birth is a story remembered and celebrated every year in the life of the church. Almost all of us have a vivid memory that comes to mind when we hear the Bible Verse for the lesson: "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Whether it is a memory of a child in a pageant, a Christmas Eve service, a parent reading the story around a fire, or Linus from the video *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, those words have the power to take us back to memories of Christmas days long ago.

The Journey to Bethlehem has many roads.

- The path of a young couple, going about the tasks of their lives, awaiting the birth of a first child winds through the hills and valleys on the weeklong trek from Nazareth to a simple birth in Bethlehem.
- The hurried sprint of shepherds still reeling from the sight of angels filling the sky finds its end beside a manger where the new baby has been laid.
- The later travels of scholarly minds from the East find a small toddler growing in the streets of this small town.
- The words of Old Testament prophets wind their way across parchment and scrolls to spring to life in the manger.

There is no one single journey to Bethlehem; there are many journeys along many roads.

Each year, millions of us prepare our hearts and minds to take the journey back into the story of the birth of Jesus, God with us here on Earth.

- It is a journey to a small town, with humble people.
- It is a journey to find a poor family away from home.
- It is a journey to see a newly born baby, wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.
- It is a journey to the time when God, the all-powerful, Creator of all, the great I Am, became one of us.

The reason we journey to Bethlehem every year during the season of Advent is to remember the heart of the story: The Messiah, our Savior and God's Son, Jesus was born!

The greatest story ever told began with the simplest beginning ever imagined:

- The anticipation of the young couple
- The joy of the new mother
- The excitement of the shepherds
- The promise of the prophets
- The image of a baby who brings peace to us all