



December 1st: Matthew 1, 2v13-15 & 19-23; Luke 2v1-7

Mary & Joseph's journey of faith

Journey from

Journey to

Journey's end

QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS AND FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

We've all been on journeys. What recent journey sticks in your mind? Why? Happy memories or unhappy?

JOURNEY FROM

1. Read Matthew 1. Why are these genealogies so important?
2. Read Matthew 1:18–25. Joseph is described as a 'man of honour'. Gives examples of what this looked like. How did this help him in accepting God's unexpected plan for his life?
3. Read Matthew 2:15-15 and 19-23. This second journey (and return) was caused by a completely different set of circumstances. What can this tell us about God's long term plans for his followers?

JOURNEY TO

4. Read Luke 2:1-7. The journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem was about 70 miles, and came at the worst time for them. What does this journey tell us about the role of secular authorities in God's plans?
5. What can the lack of room for Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem tell us about our walk with God?
6. In what ways would the birth story of Jesus have been a challenge to (in particular) Jewish readers?

JOURNEY'S END

7. The return to Nazareth marked a point where the story of Jesus (with one exception) goes quiet for almost 30 years. How can we use this as an example for our daily lives?
8. What did Jesus come to proclaim? In what ways can we model ourselves on what he taught and did?