

## The Journey: A Season of Reflections

Based on An Advent Study by Adam Hamilton

### **Lesson #4: From Nazareth to Bethlehem**

#### Key Story:

The journey of a lifetime  
(Luke 2:17)

READ: (Luke 2:1-7)

#### **The Birth of Jesus**

**2** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while<sup>[a]</sup> Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

~~ Watch Video ~~  
From Nazareth to Bethlehem

## Reflections

- The decreed census was meant to show power and authority of Caesar. In essence, he reunited many families in their home territory
- The Christmas story shows the power of family; Mary is supported and sheltered by her family when she faces danger
- It is probable the “inn” was a guest house of a family member. Rather than displace family who was already in the rooms, Mary and Joseph opted for the stable, still part of the family homestead
- Messiah translated means “anointed one”

## Reflection Questions:

1. What may have been Mary’s frame of mind throughout her journey? Was she excited? Resigned? Anxious? Anger and frustrated?
2. When in your life did a journey radically alter your life?
3. How did the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem change and define the lives of Mary and Joseph?

## This Week:

God’s greatest work often arises from journey’s we do not wish to take.