

December 20 – The Family

Luke 1

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ... ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home. (Luke 1:39-40,56)

Considering the circumstances (read more of the surrounding chapter as needed), why do you think Mary left her parents' home to be with Elizabeth? ~ When have you been separated from your family because of something that happened in your life, and how did you feel?

⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. (Luke 2:4-5)

How do you think Mary felt to be separated from her mom and family for the birth of her first child? ~ When was a time you felt something like that?

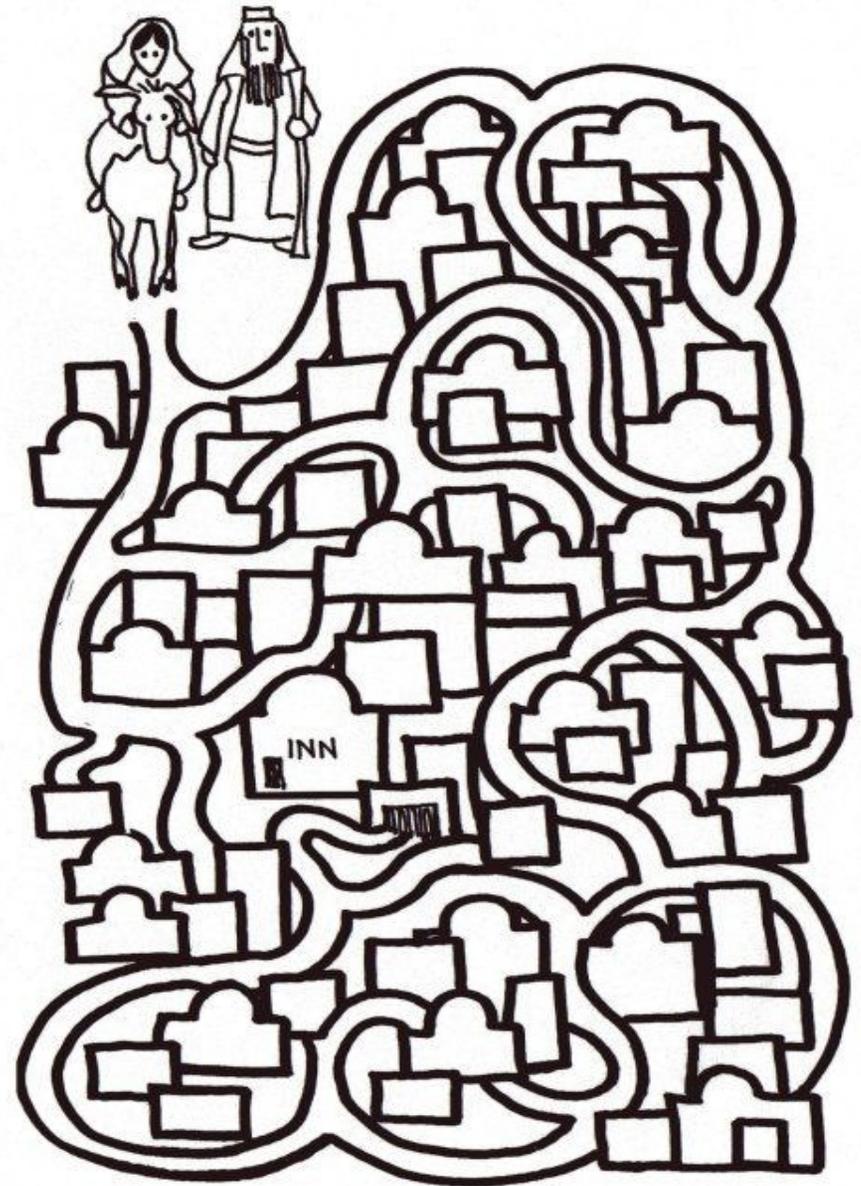
¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." (Matthew 2:13)

How do you think Joseph and Mary felt being separated from Joseph's family, as they were forced into hiding and moved to a foreign country until further notice? ~ If you were in a similar situation, what would you miss the most? ~ Who would you miss the most? ~ What would you find comfort in?

Lord Jesus, you promise me you're with me always and forever. You remind me repeatedly I have nothing to fear. When I feel separated from those I love and who love me, give me the joy of feeling your presence. Amen.

Bonus Time:

- ◆ Schedule a time to play a game (or two!) with the whole household.
- ◆ Write a thank you card to a member of your family who you haven't communicated with recently.
- ◆ Share a time you felt most loved by your family when you were younger/growing up. Then share a time when you felt most loved by someone in your household in the last week.



Family

Draw a Christmas scene with your whole family in it!

