

HOPE REVEALED



Joseph and his pregnant wife, Mary, journeying to Bethlehem for the census.

The census required Joseph and Mary to travel to Bethlehem to be counted because Joseph belonged to the house and line of David. Mary rode on a donkey and Joseph walked beside her as they embarked upon their ninety-mile trek towards Bethlehem. They had heard the stories of hope passed down from generation to generation. Stories about a Savior coming to Earth. Didn't they say this Savior would come out of the house of Jesse? Wait a second, wasn't Jesse David's dad? Imagine in that moment,

any doubts Mary and Joseph may have had being washed away. Joseph was from David's line and here he was. Their child... the boy all snuggled securely in Mary's womb was the hope for the world. He would be known as Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. The light of the world, all safe and secure in Mary's womb. They didn't know how their Son would save the world, but for now, Mary and Joseph were content knowing Jesus as their little Immanuel, God with us.

Luke 2:1-5

At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register. This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of

Syria. And everyone went to their own towns to be registered. So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant.)

Devotional Activity

1. Have you ever traveled on a donkey? What is the most uncomfortable way you have traveled? If you had to travel 90 miles without the use of modern transportation, how would you choose to go?
2. Have you ever had a plan go differently than how you intended? How did you react? What did you hear from God in that moment?
3. How has Jesus' hope brought you comfort?