

## NO ROOM AVAILABLE



*Pregnant Mary and Joseph looking for a place to stay in Bethlehem.*



**T**he little donkey was SO tired. Along with Mary and Joseph, he had walked and walked and walked. Up hills and down hills and up hills again. On rocky paths and dusty ways. During the day the sun was hot, and at night there were strange sounds. The donkey's favorite part of the day was always stopping in the shade of the olive trees. But he was certainly ready to stop traveling altogether.

When they finally arrived at Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph were surprised to find that every guest room in the village was filled up! Their only option was to share a space with the animals. The little donkey was a bit surprised too, but of course, he didn't mind. He settled in beside the other animals and listened to the soft sounds of breathing. Now the only thing left to do was wait for the baby!

**Matthew 8:12**

**W**hile Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. There were no rooms left in the inn.

### Devotional Activity

1. Have you ever taken a very long trip, the kind where you ask, "Are we there yet?" What does that feel like?
2. When the family arrived in Bethlehem, they expected to find a room, but instead they had to share space with the animals. How do you think they felt?
3. When things don't go the way you expect, how do you respond?
4. What do you think it tells us about God that Jesus wasn't born in a fancy space but in a manger?