

Sunday, December 22, 2013



Nazareth to Bethlehem – Hope for the Journey

How to use Talk It Over:

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key questions, add any optional scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps. You can use this study guide with your small group, your family, or on your own.

Today's Key Idea:

God is often at work for good in the “unwanted journeys” of our lives.

Key Questions:

Have you ever been forced to take an “unwanted journey” in your life? Maybe it started with a divorce or a health problem or some other crisis.

- How did you respond in the beginning?
- What good do you see that God did as you look back on that experience?

Mary and Joseph probably traveled through Samaria to get from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Samaritans were viewed with judgment and fear by many Jews of that time similar to how some Americans view immigrants or Muslims.

- Do you know any people of different race or religion?
- What are your thoughts and feelings about people who are different?
- How do you respond to immigrants?
- Jesus spoke positively of Samaritans in his teaching. What does that mean for how we treat people who are different?

Daily Bible Readings:

- Day 1: Romans 8:22-27
- Day 2: Luke 2:1-7
- Day 3: Colossians 3:9-11
- Day 4: Matthew 1:18-25
- Day 5: Matthew 2:1-12