

Self-Guided Holy Walk Journey 1

Introduction:

- **Choose a biblical name for yourself:**
Aaron, Matthew, Isaiah, Ruth, Deborah, Elizabeth, etc.
 - **Choose a hometown for your family:**
Jerusalem, Hebron, Jericho, Caesarea, Nazareth, etc.
 - **Choose the length of your journey to Bethlehem:** Jerusalem (1/2 day), Hebron (2 days), Jericho (2 days), Caesarea (6 days), Nazareth (7 days), etc.
 - **Choose a profession for your family:**
fishermen, shepherds, weavers, potters, farmers (figs, olives, wheat...), etc.
- You are leading your family to Bethlehem to be counted and taxed by the Romans.
 - Your family will need to keep their scrolls during the entire journey.



****Important****

**WHEN THE FAMILY
AHEAD OF YOU MOVES
TO THE NEXT STATION,
YOUR FAMILY NEEDS
TO MOVE TO THE
NEXT STATION**



Station o-Exit Bus:

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- The guards will count your family and tell you how many there are in your family.
- Pick an adult to carry the second lantern behind your group.
- As you begin moving, ask your family to help you remember the family name (which is your name—for example, “Family of Zachariah”) and how many of you there are.

Continue down the path until you see a map. Stop here.

Station i-Map:

- Locate the hometown you chose for your family on the map.
- Briefly describe your journey to Jerusalem and how long it took.
- Explain what your family does for a living and why you are going to Bethlehem (to pay taxes).

Continue down the path until you see a man and a woman on the side of the path. Stop here.

Station ii-Mary & Joseph:

- Greet the two strangers (Mary and Joseph) along the road by saying, “Shalom” (meaning “peace”) and introduce yourself.
- Ask about their travels and have your family help answer questions the strangers ask you.

Continue down the path until you see a pillar by the side of the road.

Only pause here if the group before you is at the Shepherd Station.

**Optional Stop-Rachel's Tomb:

- “This is Rachel's Tomb, which means we are on the outskirts of Bethlehem! Rachel was our forefather Jacob's second wife, the mother of Joseph and Benjamin, who died here giving birth to Benjamin.”

Continue down the path until you see shepherds with their sheep.

Stop here.

Station iii–Shepherds and Angels:

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- Greet the shepherds: “Shalom!”
- Thank them for sharing their fire with you and ask, “Can you tell us how far it is to Bethlehem?”
- After a brief discussion, wave your lantern to signal the angels.
- Excitedly discuss the angel sighting with the shepherds and hurry on.

Continue down the path until you reach a tent with Roman soldiers outside. Wait by the fire outside the tent and urge your family to follow the orders of the soldiers because they may throw you in jail if you disobey!

Station iv–Registration Tent:

- When commanded by the guards, enter the tent.
- When directed, write down your name and the number of people in your family on the scroll. Use Roman Numerals.
- Wait for your whole family outside the tent and continue forward.

Continue down the path until you meet a group of fishermen. Stop here.

**Optional Stop–The Bartering Child:

- If the fisherman station is occupied by the family ahead of you, talk to the bartering child along the path.
- Attempt to purchase his/her animal or produce and haggle over the price until the fisherman station is open. (The price will always be too high.)

Station v–The Fisherman:

- Greet the fisherman and ask to warm yourselves by their fire.
- Discuss their catch of fish.
- The fishermen will ask your family if they have seen anything strange recently.
- Prompt a child to describe the angels and what they told you.

Continue down the path until you come to the Inn.

Station vi–The Inn:

- Ask one or all of the children in your family to knock on the door of the inn and ask for a place to stay.
- When the innkeeper says there is no room, plead with him briefly, and then move on to look elsewhere for a place to stay.

Continue down the path until you come a fire outside the House of Benjamin.

Station vii–Outside the House of Benjamin:

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- Warm yourselves at the fire outside the tent and describe your concern about having no room at the inn.
- There may be someone from the House of Benjamin outside their tent that you can talk to.
- Ask your family to remind you of what the angels told you earlier.

Enter the House of Benjamin when prompted by those inside.

Station viii–The House of Benjamin:

- File all the way into the tent and sit. Thank the owners for their hospitality.
- Discuss your travels with the people here and enjoy a moment of rest.

When prompted by a guard, exit the House of Benjamin and follow his orders.

Station ix–The Village:

- Move from shop to shop in a zigzag pattern following the group in front of you. If the guards tell you to move to the next shop, do so.
- At each station haggle with the villagers over their wares but decide you shouldn't spend any money until you pay taxes.
- Offer to marry off your teenage family members to get better deals.
- Engage your family in the discussions with the villagers.

When prompted by a guard, line up outside the holding tent and follow his orders.

**Optional Stop–Stick Game:

- There will be children playing the “stick game” outside of the holding tent.
- If there is time to wait before lining up outside the holding tent, the “stick game” players can teach the children in your group how to play.

Station x–The Holding Tent:

- Answer all the soldiers' questions and stay quiet when told to.
- The soldiers will attempt to intimidate your family and may put someone in jail.
- Move to the far side of the tent when told to.

When prompted by a guard, exit the holding tent and enter the tax tent.

Station xi-The Tax Tent:

- Answer all the Romans' questions and stay quiet when told to.
- Once your tax for the year is decided, step forward and place coins on the scale. Paying your taxes was why you came to Bethlehem to begin with.

When prompted by a guard, exit the tax tent and gather your family at the bridge.

Station xii-The Bridge:

- This should be a very brief stop.
- Explain to your family that you have paid your taxes as decreed by Caesar.
- Ask them to remind you of what the angels told you earlier and continue searching for the Savior to be born in a manger.

Continue down the path until you reach the synagogue. Enter when prompted.

Station xiii-The Synagogue:

- Interact with the scribe and allow your family to answer his questions.
- Enjoy this moment of rest and listen as the scribe reads from the torah.

Continue down the path until you can see the star over the manger.

Turn so the star is behind you and face your family if there is another group at the manger.

Station xiv-Between the Synagogue and the Manger:

- Explain that the Torah reading in the synagogue reminded you of the Savior that the angels foretold.
- Say that you know God keeps his promises, but we have not yet found the Savior but will keep seeking.
- Give your family time to prompt you about the star over the manger ahead. If no one does, ask them if they have any idea which way God wants to lead you.

Continue down the path until you can reach the manger.

Place yourself at the far end so you can see when to move on.

Station xv–The Manger:

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- Quietly watch the mother and father cradling their new baby, the Savior.
- You may choose to kneel in reverence or even sing “Silent Night.”
- When the group ahead is done speaking to the wisemen, move on.

****“Silent Night”****

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright. Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Continue down the path until you reach the wisemen.

Station xvi–The Wisemen:

- Greet the wisemen and discuss your travels.
- Ask them about their gifts and why they have brought them.

Continue down the path until you reach the Apostle John.

Station xvii–The Apostle John:

- Allow John to drive the conversation and minister to your family.
- He will reference the Cross, the Empty Tomb and share the Gospel and pray a prayer with the group.

After John is finished speaking bring your family to the entrance of the hospitality tent.

Station xviii–Table outside the Hospitality Tent:

- This is a time for you to share with your family. Perhaps reiterate aspects of the gospel that John shared, share part of your testimony or encourage your group to share Christ this season. (You will see a basket with scrolls on the table; inside are “Next Steps on Your Journey with Jesus” that you can encourage anyone who accepted Christ tonight to take.)
- Thank your family for joining you on this journey and usher them into the tent for hot chocolate and cookies.
- Please return any costume items supplied to you by the BHW.
- Thank you for joining us tonight!