

# *Bus Guides*

Isaiah 9:6-7

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD, Almighty will accomplish this.”

The Bus Guides help “set the scene” for the guests to “travel to Bethlehem”. The bus guide must project their voice so they can be heard above the traffic noise. Announce that all electronic devices be turned to silent mode or turned off for the journey.

Explain the word shalom. Shalom was used as a salutation by Jews at meeting or parting, meaning “peace”. (It is a Hebrew word meaning peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare, and tranquility).

The bus ride is short so you will have to adjust what you say depending if you have any wait time to unload. The message here is to travel with the guest, transport them back over 2,000 years and connect them with their family who will be traveling on to Bethlehem.

## **Script:**

“SHALOM... “Do you know what it means? “Shalom can mean “Hello”, “Goodbye”, or “Peace be with you”. You will probably hear this word a lot as you travel this evening.

“We will be going back in time over 2,000 years ago. As you know, Caesar Augustus has decreed a census to be taken and everyone is required to return to the town of his birth to be registered for yet another tax and pay taxes already levied. For many this has meant a long tiring journey on foot or by donkey or mule. You all are going to Bethlehem.”

“I am \_\_\_\_\_ and I am from \_\_\_\_\_. I will not be going into Bethlehem with you. I will be leaving you just outside the city of Jerusalem and you will be meeting up with your family to go on into Bethlehem yet tonight. Jerusalem is just 5-6 miles north of Bethlehem. But we are getting tired of this journey as the weather has not been very cooperative for us. Rain – cold – snow – So I hope you can be patient and hang on just a little longer.

I will be giving you your scroll of decree to present to the tax collector. Your family leader will meet you and will be with you all the rest of the way. Hold onto your scroll and keep it rolled up – ready to show to the soldiers when they ask to see it. There are many families traveling tonight. It will be very crowded along the

roads and in the village, so children stay close to your parents. Soldiers are out in force so children hold onto your parent's hands, you will be safe, and the soldiers will not bother you. Should you misplace your scroll, ask your family head for an extra one."

After "setting the stage" you may want to sing if time. Two good songs would be

"O Come All Ye Faithful"- O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

"Little Town of Bethlehem". O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie, above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light, the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

\*\*\*The bus guide should get off the bus first at the site, then hand out the scrolls as the people get off the bus. Also, be prepared to relay to the soldiers if a group is particularly rowdy and you think they might need a strong, or experienced Walking Guide.

#### On Return Trip-

You will pick up guests that have finished the Walk to take back to the school. Ask if the Walk helped them experience what that first Christmas truly was... A Savior born into the world to save the world!

Be prepared with some statistics or general information about our Holy Walk to share on the way back. The guests may want to share what they saw and heard. Some guides like to ask the children what they saw. Usually they are full of enthusiasm until later in the evening. Ask the adults if they got their taxes paid as that was their purpose in going back to Bethlehem. Or they may have questions about the Walk. If they want information how they can get involved with Bremen Holy Walk give them the website address, [bremenholyywalk.com](http://bremenholyywalk.com)

Maybe the group would just like to sing on the way back.

As the bus turns onto Bowen Avenue, tell the people where they are coming back to help them orient themselves as to where they are parked, whether south lot or east lot. If in the east lot, the bus may take them there. When the bus stops, the guide gets off the bus first and helps people watch their steps down. Wish them a "Merry Christmas" and the Peace of the Lord

NOTE: After ALL people are taken to the site, bus guides can leave for the evening. People coming back later are tired and not too talkative. The bus drivers usually fill in for the bus guides late at night.