Mary and Joseph

Light a candle and remember the presence of God is with you. Lay out the dark purple felt and road on top.

Come close to this story that leads us through a special journey called Advent.

Advent is the church season of getting ready for when Jesus will be born. There are many stories and people that prepare us to meet Jesus. I wonder who we get to meet in today’s story? Place Isaiah, Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph on the road (see below).

These two people are Mary and Joseph. They were Jesus’ parents on Earth. An angel came to them at different times to help prepare them for Jesus’ birth. The angel kept reminding them to “Do not be afraid, but be joyful.” The angel had told them they were going to have a special son.

Mary, Joseph, and a donkey had to travel to Bethlehem when Mary was almost ready to give birth to her special son, Jesus.

The third candle of Advent represents JOY

We will place this candle on our wreath and remember the JOY of expecting God’s special son, Jesus.

The second candle of Advent represents PEACE.

We will place this candle on our wreath and remember the PEACE Elizabeth felt when she comforted Mary as they both prepared for special sons.

The first candle of Advent represents HOPE.

We will place this candle on our wreath and remember the HOPE Isaiah provided for the people in his time, in Jesus’ time, and in our time.
Wondering with God’s Story

I wonder...
...how Mary felt?
...how Joseph felt?
...how the donkey felt?
...if you have ever been on a journey?

Working with God’s Story

1. Have each person retell the story without reading the words. Just use items.

2. Find the story in your Bible and highlight it. You can also look in a Storybook Bible or online.

3. Ask the wondering questions more than once. Dinner? Car? Bedtime?

Check the “Weekly Faith FITness Plan” card.

Illustrator: Nicole Lapointe
Pictures: Worship Woodworks, worshipwoodworks.com

Mary and Joseph
Advent Week Three: JOY

Luke 2:3-6
(Common English Version)

Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David’s hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David’s family.

Mary was engaged to Joseph and traveled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, and while they were there, she gave birth to her first-born son.
Family Prayer

There are so many ways to pray. This week’s prayer challenge is to write a family prayer that shares with God about a time when you felt joy!

I/We felt joy as we celebrated/waited/…

_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________

Amen.