

Journey through Advent with Jesus

By Margaret Bateson-Hill

WEEK ONE: ME

At the start of Advent, make your own Advent calendar with a long piece of string and pegs, hanging up all the things you make – photos, pictures, maps, names.

You will need: A map of your town/country/world . You can find one online, or draw one.

Activity: Draw a picture of yourself and make a list of all your talents. What is your name? Who chose it? What does it mean? Write out your name with its meaning and decorate it. Find a picture of yourself as a baby. Where were you born? At home or in a hospital?

Read: Psalm 139 and Isaiah 9:6

Map: Look on a map and see where Jesus was born. His parents' home was Nazareth, but he was born in Bethlehem. Imagine what it must have been like to be born in a stable.

Pray: Make up a prayer, saying thank you for you.

WEEK THREE: VISITORS

Read: The Christmas story is full of visitors!

The Annunciation: Luke 1:26-38. Shepherds: Luke 2: 1-20.

Kings: Matthew 2: 1-12

Map: Who comes to visit you – or who do you visit? Do they live nearby or far away? Mark their house on the map. If they live close by draw the route they would have to take. How do they/you get there? Walk, bus/car/train... Think how Jesus's visitors would have travelled.

Activity: Have you a photograph of you and your friend? Or draw a picture of you playing together. Is there anyone in your class who is lonely or sad? Why not ask them to play in the playground.

Do: Make something for a friend – a card, biscuits, a Christmas decoration. A sign for their room with their name on. Perhaps take some toys that you don't play with any more to a charity shop or donate a new toy to a charity where children have less than you.

Pray: Say a prayer thanking God for your friends.

WEEK TWO: MY FAMILY

Activity: Make a family tree. Can you find photos of different members of your family, or draw them? How far back can you go?

Read: Jesus's parents were Mary and Joseph. You can see Jesus's family tree in Matthew 1: 1-16. Do you recognise any famous names there? Choose one and find out more about them.

Map: Where does your family live? Do any members of your family live in different towns/countries, or were they born in a different country. Find those places on the map and mark them.

Do: Why not give a member of your family – a cousin, grandparent, aunt etc., a call or send them a letter, telling them you are thinking about them, or call round for a visit.

Pray: Make up a prayer saying thank you for your family.

WEEK FOUR: JESUS, SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD

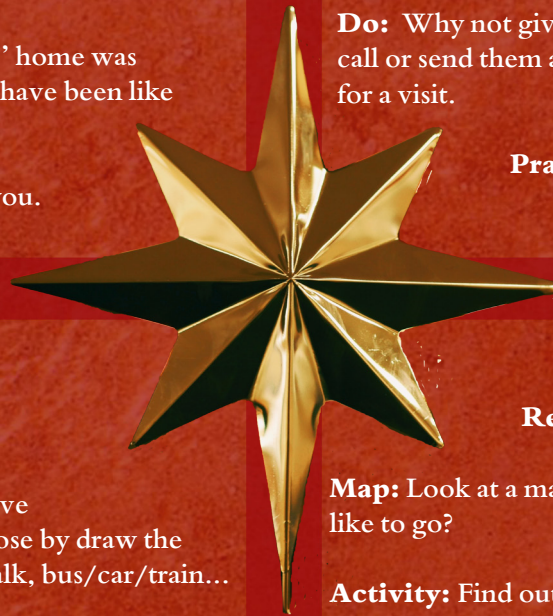
Read: John 3:16

Map: Look at a map of the world. Where have you visited, or where would you like to go?

Activity: Find out about a different Christmas tradition from another country. Listen to a Christmas carol in a different language eg – or look on YouTube:
www.europeanmama.com/beautiful-christmas-carols-around-world/
You might even learn the words.

Do: Our world is very troubled. Look on the news and find a place in the world that is troubled. Mark it on the map. Find out about it. Talk about it with a grown up. Find out something good about that place.

Pray: Make up a prayer asking God to send his love and peace.



JESUITS
in Britain

