

# Christmas Season Devotionals

## THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: BETHLEHEM

Theme: LOVE

Talk about: (1) Compare what it would be like to drive in a car for 70 miles (Carlsbad to parts of Los Angeles) to riding on a donkey or walking for the same distance. (This is approximately how far Joseph and Mary had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem.) (2) Are you traveling to someone's house this Christmas? What gifts could you bring to show you love Jesus who shows you how to live?

Candle Lighting Option: Go ahead and light the HOPE candle first. Then, read Luke 2:1-7 as you light the 2<sup>nd</sup> candle and talk about how it symbolizes the LOVE of God for Mary & Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem. This is a wonderful anticipation of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Nativity Option: Now you can add the animals and Mary & Joseph to your nativity scene or have your children go and find them in your home. Point out that the bringing of the animals along with Mary & Joseph represent the journey to Bethlehem. Read Luke 2:1-7 and be excited for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Close by talking and praying about your journey with Christ right now. In other words, how would you describe your relationship with Jesus: Getting out to far ahead of Jesus, following Him closely, lagging behind on the trail, or falling off the trail.