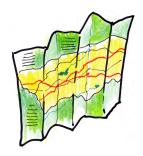
JESUS' LONG JOURNEY

Message: Jesus came all the way from Heaven

Scripture: Matthew 1:21

Prop: A road map



I've been studying the map lately because I've been thinking about taking a trip. Have you ever taken a really long trip? Where did you go on your trip? (Solicit answers.) Have you ever been to Cape Cod? How about Disneyworld? California? England? China? What's the furthest place you've ever traveled to?

When you took your trips did you travel by car or by airplane? Have you ever traveled anywhere by bus? Or a train? Or a boat?

Did you go with your family or with your friends?

Well, 2,000 years ago Jesus took a trip. It was a very <u>long</u> trip. In fact, it was the longest trip anyone has ever taken. No one had ever taken a trip quite like it before. He didn't travel in a car or on a plane. He didn't go by train or on a bus. And he didn't go with his family or friends. He went on this trip all by himself.

Would you like to know where he went? It happened on the night he was born. On the night he was born Jesus traveled all the way from Heaven to earth.

When we take our trips, they're usually for fun because they're often vacations. But Jesus wasn't going on vacation: He came for a different reason. He came so that we could have a savior. Here's what the angel said to Joseph in Matthew 1:21: "He shall save his people from their sins." (KJV) So Jesus traveled all the way from Heaven to save us from sin.

I don't know about you, but I'm sure glad he came! Let's pray about that: Dear Father, thank you for sending Jesus all the way from Heaven to us here on earth. We thank you that he saves us from sin. We pray this in his precious name. Amen.

Song: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

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