



### What is the furthest you've ever traveled during the Christmas Holiday?

... what do your travel plans look like for 2009?

### What are the trips of the Nativity story ...

1. Mary travels to Elizabeth ... at trip of \_\_\_\_\_
2. Mary & Joseph travel to Bethlehem ... a trip of \_\_\_\_\_
3. Shepherds travel to the manger ... a trip of \_\_\_\_\_
4. The Holy Family travels to the temple ... a trip of \_\_\_\_\_
5. Magi travel to the star ... a trip of \_\_\_\_\_
6. Mary & Joseph travel to Egypt ... a trip of \_\_\_\_\_

But the ultimate trip made ...

*"Who, being the very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,  
but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness."  
(Philippians 2:6-7 NIV)*

... a trip of \_\_\_\_\_

### What part of the journey are you on today?

### Encounter these verses today:

*circle words that you identify with, underline phrases or sentences you'd like to remember, write questions about the passage out to the side*

### Philippians 2:1-12 [The Journey of the Messiah]

<sup>1</sup>If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

### Digging Deeper this week ... ADVENT READINGS ... WK3

*To maximize the Advent Season (or season of preparation), we would like to encourage you to read the following scriptures and ponder the questions that follow.*

**Day 1)** Mark 1:1-3 ... How can we "proclaim" the message of Jesus today?

**Day 2)** Luke 1:67-80 ... How are you experiencing the "path of peace" today?

**Day 3)** Luke 2:21-35 ... Close your eyes for a moment and imagine holding Jesus in your arms today ... what would you say? ... how would you feel?

**Day 4)** Luke 2:1-20 ... What makes this story special to you today?

**Day 5)** What does the arrival of Jesus mean to you today? Share that with someone who you think might be open to it!

