Preschool–Grade 5

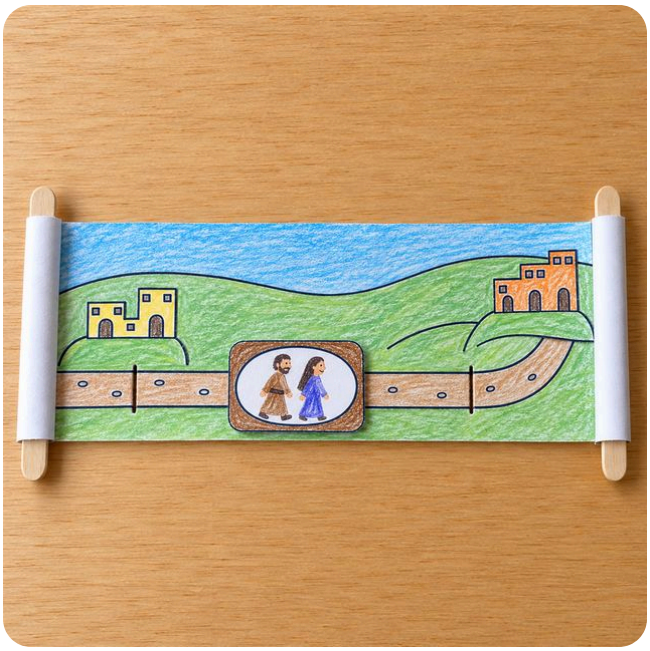
Road to Bethlehem Craft

A scroll with the road from Nazareth to Bethlehem · Luke 2:4 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



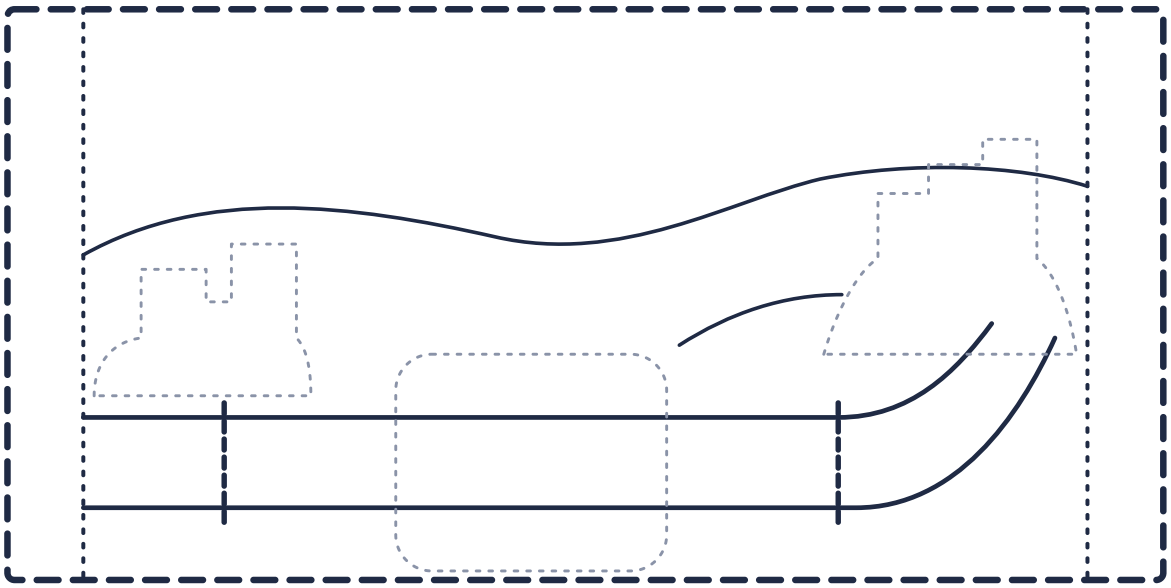
Harder

Both levels are a paper scroll on two craft sticks, opened flat. A light brown road runs across green hills from the yellow houses of Nazareth (left) up to Bethlehem, orange houses on a green hill (right), as in Luke 2:4. On the road is a brown card with an oval window where a child has drawn Joseph and Mary walking. Medium (left): the card is glued on the road. Harder (right): the card rides on a road strip threaded through two slits, so it slides toward Bethlehem.

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Name: _____

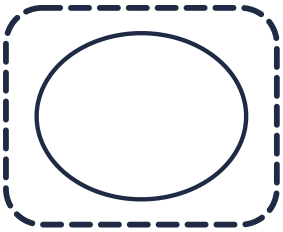
✂ Cut on the dashed lines



scroll: sky light blue, hills and fields green, road light brown



Nazareth: houses yellow, doors brown



traveler card: border brown. Draw Joseph and Mary in the window.



Bethlehem: hill green, houses orange, doors brown

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

Luke 2:4 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back

Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the scroll, Nazareth, the traveler card, Bethlehem and the verse strip. The dotted shapes on the scroll show where each piece goes.

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

Road strip and promise strip (harder level)

Cut on the dashed lines.



road strip: color it light brown. Glue the traveler card on the dotted box in the middle (not on the scroll).

But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Micah 5:2 (KJV)

promise strip: glue it on the back, next to Luke 2:4

How to add the road strip

1. Make the scroll from page 2 first, but don't glue the traveler card on yet.
2. Cut the two short dashed lines on the road: fold the scroll gently across the middle of each line and snip along it from the fold, then unfold. (A grown-up can use a craft knife instead.)
3. Color the road strip light brown and cut it out. Push one end of the strip through the left slit from the front, and the other end through the right slit, so the middle of the strip lies on the road and both ends are behind the scroll.
4. Glue the traveler card on the dotted box in the middle of the strip. Put glue only on the strip, never on the scroll.
5. Slide the card along the road from Nazareth toward Bethlehem as you tell the story (Luke 2:4–5).
6. Glue the promise strip, Micah 5:2, on the back next to the Luke 2:4 strip. God named Bethlehem long before Joseph and Mary went there.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/road-to-bethlehem-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), 2 craft sticks per child, crayons or markers (light blue, green, light brown, brown, yellow, orange, and any colors for drawing Joseph and Mary), scissors, glue sticks and clear tape. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the pieces and tape the craft sticks on the scroll ahead of time.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and tape the two craft sticks on the scroll. Kids color the scroll and the two towns, draw Joseph and Mary in the window (help them, or draw simple figures they can color), and glue Nazareth, Bethlehem and the traveler card on the dotted shapes with your help. You glue the verse strip on the back.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut, glue and tape the sticks themselves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the scroll like the medium level, but add the road strip from page 3: Joseph and Mary slide along the road through two slits. Kids also glue Micah 5:2 on the back. This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the scroll: the sky light blue, the hills and fields green and the road light brown. Color the Nazareth houses yellow with brown doors, the Bethlehem hill green and its houses orange with brown doors, and the border of the traveler card brown. Leave the oval window white.
2. **Draw:** in the window, draw Joseph and Mary walking on the road to Bethlehem (Luke 2:4–5).
3. **Cut:** cut out the scroll, Nazareth, the traveler card, Bethlehem and the verse strip on the dashed lines. Don't cut the two short dashed lines on the road; they are for the harder level.
4. **Towns:** glue Nazareth on its dotted shape at the left end of the road, and Bethlehem on its dotted shape at the top of the road on the right.
5. **Travelers:** glue the traveler card on its dotted shape in the middle of the road.
6. **Sticks:** turn the scroll over. Tape a craft stick along each short end, so the ends of the sticks stick out at the top and bottom. Roll the paper once around each stick, up to the dotted line, and tape it.
7. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back and read it together.
8. **Tell it:** roll both ends toward the middle. Unroll the scroll from Nazareth to Bethlehem as you tell the story.

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Who sent out a decree, an order for everyone? *(Caesar Augustus, Luke 2:1)* What did it say? *(That all the world should be taxed, 2:1)*
- Where did everyone go to be taxed? *(Every one into his own city, 2:3)*
- Point to Nazareth. What land was it in? *(Galilee, 2:4)*
- Point to Bethlehem. What else is it called? *(The city of David, 2:4)* Why did Joseph go there? *("because he was of the house and lineage of David," 2:4)*
- Point to the window. Who went with Joseph? *(Mary, his espoused wife, who was great with child, 2:5)*
- Long before, what town did God say the ruler of Israel would come from? *(Bethlehem, Micah 5:2)*
- What happened while they were in Bethlehem? *(Mary's firstborn son was born, and she laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn, 2:6–7)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** a **decree** is an official order; **taxed** means counted and written down so people could be taxed; **went up** means traveled up into the hills, because Bethlehem sits high in the hills of **Judaea**, the southern part of the land; **house and lineage** means family line (Joseph came from King David's family); **espoused** means promised in marriage; **great with child** means her baby was coming soon; an **inn** is a place where travelers stay.
- **What the Bible says:** Luke 2 does not mention a donkey, an innkeeper, knocking on doors, a stable or a star (the star is in Matthew 2, with the wise men). It says only that "there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7), so the craft simply shows Joseph and Mary walking the road. The Bible doesn't say how they traveled or how many days it took.
- **Why a scroll:** long ago, important words were written on scrolls. The Bible doesn't say what Caesar's decree was written on; the scroll is a craft way to remember that God's promise about Bethlehem was written down long before: "thus it is written by the prophet" (Matthew 2:5).
- **No one is drawn on the template:** Joseph and Mary are not drawn. Each child draws them in the window. Baby Jesus is not on this craft; His birth is the next story.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything, tape the sticks on before class, and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Road to Bethlehem lesson at vbshq.com/bible-stories/road-to-bethlehem.

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