

# *ARE WE THERE YET?*

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- *Large scripture passages are represented by Biblical reference to avoid copyright issues. Please include scripture in the translation of your choice.*
- *This document can be saved as text, or copied and pasted into a word document. Feel free to make changes necessary for your needs.*
- *Opportunities for additional songs have been suggested.*
- *The “stage group” consists of children dressed in costume who come on stage during the appropriate Bible passages.*

## Introduction:

Reader 1: Go in peace. Your journey has the Lord’s approval. Judges 18:6

Reader 2: Our story tonight is one of a journey; a journey of faith. Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem is the setting; however, we also remember the journey of the Adam and Eve, the shepherds, the wise men, and our own journeys. This wonderful story is made possible by Jesus’ journey to earth to live among us, as God with us.

Group One: We’re going on a journey

Group Two: We’re going far away

Group Three: Jesus will be with us

Group Four: He’s in our hearts to stay

All Groups: Are we there, yet?

Children sing: We’re gonna go, go, sing about Jesus  
Go, go, sing about Jesus  
Go, go, sing about Jesus  
Every place we go

## The Journey Away from God:

Reader 1: *Genesis 3:6 and 23*

Stage group: A snake hands Adam and Eve an apple that they share. They leave the garden guarded by two angels.

Reader 2: A journey begins with a separation. You leave behind what is familiar for the adventure of travel. The journey of our faith begins with a separation, too. We are separated from God because of our sin. Adam and Eve were sent from the garden and so began our journey away from God.

Finger play: One little apple from the tree  
One little apple for you and me  
One little apple bit by Adam and Eve  
One little apple and we all had to leave.

One little baby a Savior he's to be  
One little baby came for you and me  
One little baby born to be a king  
One little baby loves to hear us sing

Song:

Group One: We're going on a journey

Group Two: We're going far away

Group Three: Jesus will be with us

Group Four: He's in our hearts to stay

All Groups: Are we there, yet?

Children sing: We're gonna go, go, search for our Jesus  
Go, go, search for our Jesus  
Go, go, search for our Jesus  
Every place we go

## The Law Guides Us on Our Journey

Reader 1: *Luke 2:1-7*

Stage group: Mary and Joseph traveling to the manger. Baby Jesus is placed in the manger.

Reader 2: It was law that sent Adam and Eve on their journey out of the garden, and a law that sent Mary and Joseph on theirs to Bethlehem. The timing was not right for a long trip as Mary was pregnant. She must have looked wearily to the road and wondered “Are we there, yet?” But God’s timing was right. God used the law of the land to guide Mary and Joseph to the rightful place of Jesus’ birth. God’s law is for our guidance. God guides us on our journey of faith, also.

Finger play: Shhhh, shhhhh, see the little baby  
Shhhh, shhhhh, in his mother’s arms  
Shhhh, shhhhh, far away from home  
Shhhh, shhhhh, his parents keep him warm

Shhhh, shhhhh, sing for the baby  
Shhhh, shhhhh, sing him now to sleep  
Shhhh, shhhhh, sing for the baby  
Shhhh, shhhhh, watch him as he sleeps

*(Actions: finger at mouth for shhhh, rocking doll baby for the words.)*

Song:

Group One: We’re going on a journey

Group Two: We’re going far away

Group Three: Jesus will be with us

Group Four: He’s in our hearts to stay

All Groups: Are we there, yet?

Children sing: We’re gonna go, go, see the baby Jesus  
Go, go, see the baby Jesus  
Go, go, see the baby Jesus  
Every place we go

## The Messiah Begins His Journey

Reader 1: *Luke 2:8-15*

Stage group: shepherds meeting in a field. An angel comes to tell the Good News. More angels join in singing. The shepherds begin the journey to see the baby.

Reader 2: The journey of the shepherds was a short but important one. They journeyed to see the promised Messiah. They journeyed to see the One who came to fulfill the law on our behalf. Jesus' journey to earth marked a turning point in our journey of faith. Jesus' death and resurrection guarantees heaven waits for us. We no longer walk separated from our Heavenly Father. We now walk a path of faith back to His open arms.

Finger play: (sung to the tune of 99 bottles of beer)

5 angels sing in the sky  
5 angels sing  
1 flew down, spread love around  
4 angels sing in the sky

4 angels sing in the sky  
4 angels sing  
1 flew down, spread love around  
3 angels sing in the sky

3 angels sing in the sky  
3 angels sing  
1 flew down, spread love around  
2 angels sing in the sky

2 angels sing in the sky  
2 angels sing  
1 flew down spread love around  
1 angel sings in the sky

1 angel sings in the sky  
More come to sing  
Hundreds of angels sing in the sky  
Sing for the baby King

Song:

Group One: We're going on a journey

Group Two: We're going far away

Group Three: Jesus will be with us

Group Four: He's in our hearts to stay

All Groups: Are we there, yet?

Children sing: We're gonna go, go, teach about Jesus  
Go, go, teach about Jesus  
Go, go, teach about Jesus  
Every place we go

## The Journey Is Open to All Travelers

Reader 1: *Matthew 2:1-2 and 9-11*

Stage group: Wise men look to the star and follow to Bethlehem. When they arrive they move to Mary and Joseph and the baby. They set down their gifts and kneel before the child.

Reader 2: Jesus was a Jew. His coming fulfilled a Jewish prophecy. The entrance of the Magi in this story adds new travelers to the journey. Jesus came for all people. We are all children of God with one Heavenly Father. It is our prayer that God's ways may be known on earth. Let us join together in reciting Psalm 67:

Reader 1: May God be gracious to us and bless us

Congregation: And make His face shine upon us,

Reader 1: That Your ways may be known in earth

Congregation: Your salvation among all nations.

Reader 1: May the peoples praise you, O God:

Congregation: May all the peoples praise you.

Reader 1: May the nations be glad and sing for joy,

Congregation: For You rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

Reader 1: May the peoples praise you, O God:

Congregation: May all the peoples praise you.

Reader 1: Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.

Congregation: God will bless us, and all the end of the earth will fear Him.

Finger play: A star, a star led them on their way  
A star, a star to the baby in the hay  
A star, a star leads us to the king  
A star, a star Good News does us bring

A heart, a heart beats in the baby's chest  
A heart, a heart a love that gives us rest  
A heart, a heart to guide us on our way  
A heart, a heart to tell us what to say

Song:

Group One: We're going on a journey

Group Two: We're going far away

Group Three: Jesus will be with us

Group Four: He's in our hearts to stay

All Groups: Are we there, yet?

Children sing: We're gonna go, go, tell about Jesus  
Go, go, tell about Jesus  
Go, go, tell about Jesus  
Every place we go

## Our Journey Continues

Reader 1: *Hebrews 11:8*

Reader 2: Our journey will not end until we see our Savior's face when He welcomes us into heaven. It will truly be the journey of a lifetime. For now, we have work to do as we travel. So many of God's children have not heard the news of Jesus' birth; God sends us out into the world to tell others about His saving love. We do not know what will happen as we travel our journey of faith. We know that we will arrive, one day, in the arms of Jesus. He will guide us as we travel, protect us from harm and help us as we tell others the Good News.

Stage group: One town person tells another, the two travel to a third, etc.

Group One: We're going on a journey

Group Two: We're going far away

Group Three: Jesus will be with us

Group Four: He's in our hearts to stay

All Groups: Are we there, yet?

Children sing: We're gonna go, go, sing about Jesus  
Go, go, sing about Jesus  
Go, go, sing about Jesus  
Every place we go

Older children: We're going on a journey

Younger children: Are we there yet?

Older children: It's going to take us far

Younger children: Are we there yet?

Older children: We're going on a journey

Younger children: Are we there yet?

Older children: We're following a star

Younger children: Are we there yet?

Older children: We're going on a journey

Younger children: Are we there yet?

Older children: To see the baby king

Younger children: Are we there yet?

Older children: We're going on a journey

Younger children: Are we there yet?

Older children: Praises to the Lord we bring!

Reader 1: *Judges 18:6*

Reader 2: *Hebrews 13:20-21*

We're Gonna Go Little Ones Sing Praise Concordia Publishing House