12 Day Devotional
Ages 5+

A Christmas Journey Around the World

By Growing Kids for the Kingdom

All proceeds benefit Mercy House Global

Introduction

Christmas is a season of wonder, joy, and awe. Imagine it - the Creator of the Universe came to save the world, and His grand entrance was the most humble arrival one could ever imagine...born in a stable, laid in an animal's feeding trough, a young small-town girl was His mother, and lowly shepherds were His only guests. The world can hardly grasp this type of God. Yet this is the God who loved us enough to meet us at our worst and save us from the mess we made of ourselves. Not just us, but the whole world, in fact. From China to Ethiopia to Germany to America, God loves us all. This Christmas let's retell this special story that never gets old. And each day as we share part of the story and ponder the amazing things about our Savior, let's journey across the globe to others Jesus came for as well. We will see how people in other countries celebrate Christmas, learn what God is doing in their lives, and have a chance to pray for them. Join me for a special Christmas to remember: A Christmas Journey Around the World.

All proceeds of this Christmas devotional go to raise funds for Mercy House Global, a ministry that supports Rehema House in Kenya. Rehema House is a Christian ministry funded and led by local Kenyans. Since the spring of 2023, Rehema House has welcomed 77 vulnerable, pregnant teens between the ages of 12-16 years old and welcomed 75 miracle babies!

The ministry provides programs and opportunities during the residents' two-year stay to help them finish school and learn life and job skills, including how to be a mother. They attend daily worship and Bible study and are surrounded by a team that shows them God's love each day. After their stay at Rehema House, they transition to other programs to get them back on their feet and living independently with family when possible.

To learn more about this amazing ministry, click here:
https://mercyhouseglobal.org/rehema-house/

HOW TO USE:

Read and discuss one devotion a day as you are able throughout the month of December. There are 12 devotions in all. You will need a Bible to read each Scripture passage, and a children's Bible may be used for visuals for younger kids. For the "Journey to..." section, it is recommended to have a world map or globe on hand and help your children find the country highlighted. You may also click the link on the digital copy to learn more about some of the ministries highlighted and ways your family can get involved. The first day a sample prayer is provided, but for each subsequent day, a prayer request is listed for you to say your own prayer as a family. Encourage your family members to take turns saying prayers for the ministry based on the information and requests given. Enjoy this special time going deeper into God's Word and praying for countries around the world!

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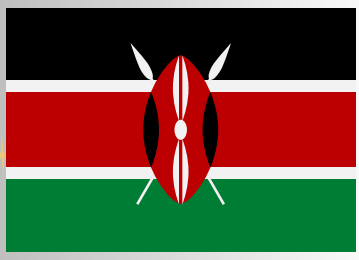
Day 1

Christmas in KENYA



A JOURNEY TO THE MANGER

An Angel Visits Zechariah: Read Luke 1:5-25

What plan does God have for Zechariah's future son, John? How did Zechariah's handle Angel Gabriel's news? What happened to Him because of his response?

A JOURNEY TO KENYA

Many Kenyans travel from the big city back to their family's home in the villages for the Christmas holiday. Families attend their local church Christmas Eve, and many children participate in nativity plays at their church. One of the most common foods for Christmas dinner is a dish similar to American BBQ. For Christmas trees they use Cypress trees that they decorate, and Santa visits on a bike, car, or even camel! Carolers visit homes Christmas Eve and receive a cash donation as a thank you. These donations are then given to the carolers' local church on Christmas day.

MINISTRY IN ACTION

Due to extreme poverty in Kenya, many teenagers end up vulnerable, pregnant, and outcasted from their family and school. Because of this, Rehema House provides a place of refuge for these girls to live and heal from the wounds they have experienced from life. They learn about the hope of Jesus, how to be a mother, and basic life skills and job skills. They also receive the opportunity to go back to school. To learn more about Mercy House Global, who funds Rehema House, and their fair trade market of jewelry made from women in their ministry, visit mercyhouseglobal.net.

PRAYER

Please pray for the new teen pregnant girls that are joining Rehema House soon, that they would experience God's great love for them and learn the beautiful plan He has for them and their future children. Please pray that God will provide the resources needed for the ministry to continue to bless many teen girls and their precious babies.

Sample Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for what you are doing through Rehema House, and we ask that the new girls arriving would find Rehema House a safe place to heal, learn about your amazing love, and be equipped and empowered to continue life as a mother. We ask that you would continue to provide for Mercy House Global as they raise funds to allow Rehema House to continue to change so many lives in Kenya. Amen.