

Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA – Office of Evangelization

Unpacking Faith Retreat Attachment F

A Pilgrimage of Faith: Jesus on the Move

In him we live and move and have our being...

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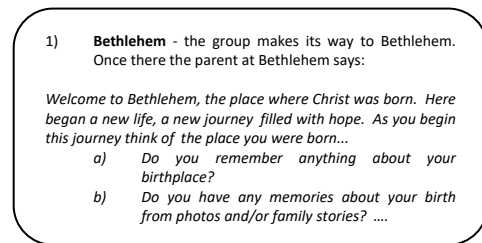
A Pilgrimage of Faith: Jesus on the Move

This exercise is designed to have youth experience the footsteps of Jesus while at the same time reflect on their own pilgrimage of faith. In many ways Jesus knows what it is like to move away, to say goodbye to good friends and to return to familiar places that have changed. Yet Jesus also understood how to give thanks to God every step of the way. **In this exercise parents will serve as the destination points of Jesus' Journey.** There are several components to this exercise to make it run smoothly.

First the details: during the break, after lunch on the second day, the leadership team will need to create 13 poster boards which will become road signs. The front of each poster board will have a different location (i.e., Bethlehem) and the back will have the instructions taped to it that the parent reads when the group arrives. You may cut the names and descriptions out from this resource to tape on each poster board.



Front of road sign



Back of road sign

The leadership team will also need to create the biblical clues (see page 2) by cutting out the bible verses for each station and put them in envelopes with the correct number on the front. Make sure the name of the destination is not on the envelope or the clue. The leadership team will also need to plot out the points on the map in the room or outside so that the parents serving as destination points will know where to stand (see page 18 for exact locations.)

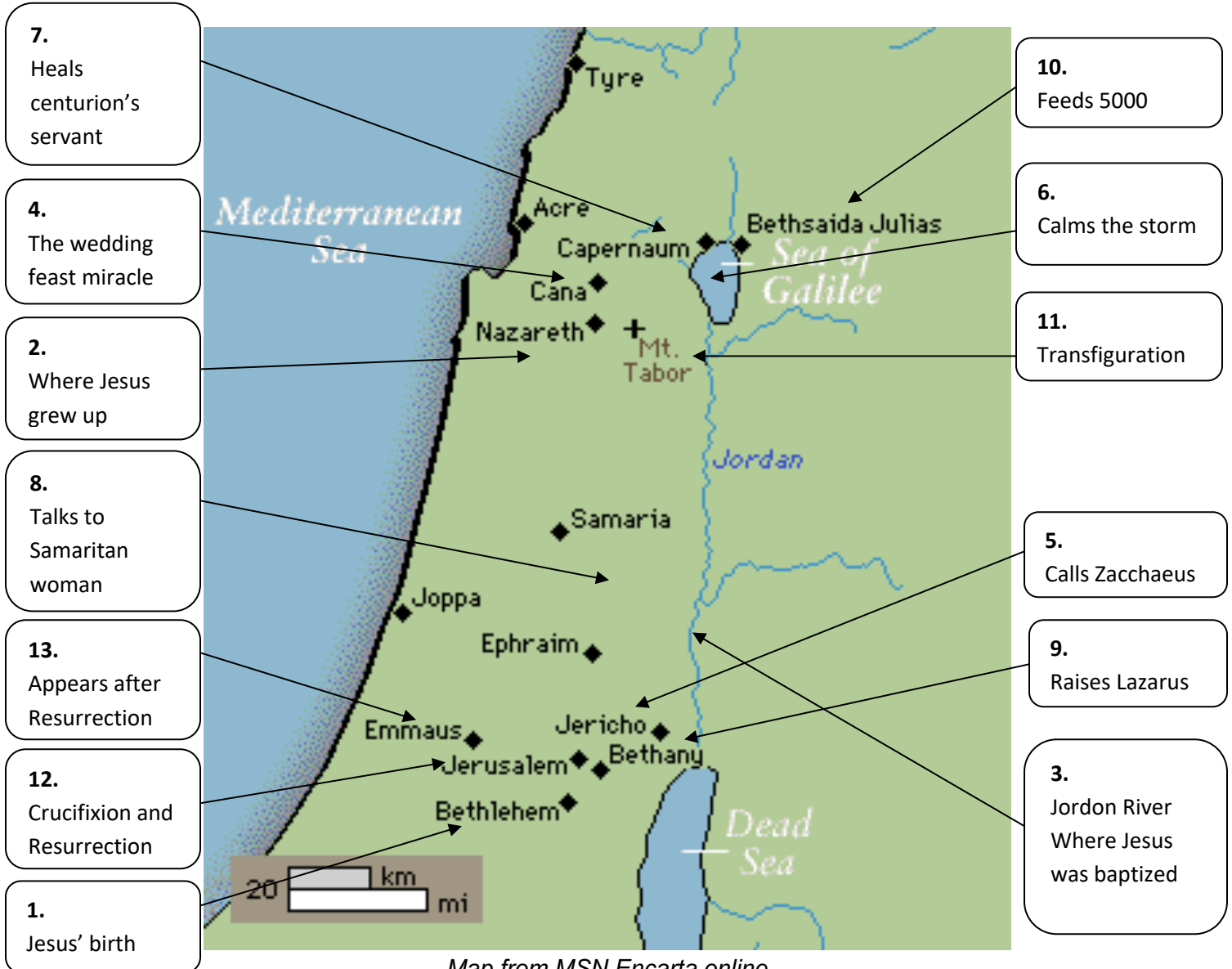
Parent orientation: prior to this exercise you will need to meet with the 13 parents that will serve as destination points. Explain to the parents that their role is to hold their sign with the destination name facing out for all to see throughout the entire exercise. The group of young people will travel the destinations in numerical order with the help of the retreat members responsible for this exercise. When the group arrives at the destination and the retreat team member confirms that they are in the correct location the parent slowly reads the back section of their road sign and invites the young people to write down a phrase or sentence in their journal based on their reflections of Jesus' life and their own experiences. After a couple of minutes, they then give the group their next clue. If the group can't figure out where to go then the retreat team member will give them a bible verse and bible to discover their next location. Parents stay in their location throughout the entire exercise as the young people will come back to various points at the end of the journey for a longer journal experience.

Clue Sheet

Retreat team members – cut along the dotted lines so that each biblical clue may be distributed in order to the group if they need an additional clue.

1) Clue (Lk 2, 1-7)	The place where Jesus was born.
2) Clue (Lk 2, 39-40)	The place where Jesus grew up.
3) Clue (Mk 1, 9-11)	The place where Jesus was baptized.
4) Clue (Jn 2, 1-11)	Jesus went here for a wedding feast.
5) Clue (Lk 19, 1-10)	Jesus calls out to a tax collector.
6) Clue (Mk 4, 35-41)	The place where Jesus calms the sea.
7) Clue (Mt 8, 5-13)	The northwest side of the Sea of Galilee.
8) Clue (Jn 4, 4-42)	Jesus talks to the woman at the well.
9) Clue (Jn 11, 1-44)	Jesus raises Lazarus.
10) Clue (Lk 9, 10-17)	Jesus feeds 5000.
11) Clue (Mt 17, 1-13)	The transfiguration of Jesus occurred high up.
12) Clue (Mt 21, 1-11)	Crucifixion and resurrection.
13) Clue (Lk 24, 13-35)	Jesus appears on the road to where?

A Pilgrimage of Faith: Jesus on the Move



Set up a large space with parents standing at the 13 points on the map. The parent will hold location signs made from poster board. If it is a nice day try to do this exercise outside. It will enable participants to have a longer walk between locations.

Retreat team leader instructions:

This exercise is bit like a scavenger hunt. It requires the group to work together to figure out where to go. The journey is a mystery, so you don't want to point the way. After giving instructions for each location allow the group to ponder together. Some of the clues will be easy, others will be challenging. If the group is struggling, then the leader can give the group a bible and the bible verse that corresponds to the next location. Upon reading the bible verse the group then looks for their next destination on the remaining road signs. All this needs to be explained to the parents prior to the experience so that the exercise runs effectively.

Leader calls out from a neutral point:

This afternoon you are called to a new journey to experience the love of family and the life of Jesus on the move. I invite all the young people to journey together as group. You will start where Jesus' life on earth began and will journey to the many places he traveled. You will need to work together to figure out each location, based on clues that you will be given. Use your minds and your hearts!

Begin the journey by going now to the place where the star shone bright, the place that the shepherds and the three Wise Men went to adore the new king.

Leader instructions: As the leader of this exercise, you will need to pay attention to the group. If they are struggling and cannot find their way, give them a bible and the biblical verse which corresponds with the next location. Your patience and guidance will have a large influence over how this exercise flows. It is okay for the group to struggle a bit as they try to discern the next location on the journey.

Bethlehem

(Tape this section on the back of the road sign for the parent to read.)

- 1) **Bethlehem** - the group makes its way to Bethlehem. Once there the parent at Bethlehem says:

Welcome to Bethlehem, the place where Christ was born. Here began a new life, a new journey filled with hope. As you begin this journey think of the place you were born...

- a) Do you remember anything about your birthplace?*
- b) Do you have any memories about your birth from photos and/or family stories?*
- c) How long did you live in the place you were born?*

Open your journal and in silence write a phrase or a word that came to mind as you thought about your birthplace.

[Leave some time, 2 minutes or so, for participants to reflect and write a word or phrase about these questions in their journals. At the conclusion of 2 minutes give the clue.]

CLUE: You cannot stay here long because the Holy Family must re-locate even though Jesus has just been born. Continue your journey now to the place where Jesus grew up.

Nazareth

(Tape this section on the back of the road sign for the parent to read.)

- 2) **Nazareth** - the group makes it way to Nazareth from Bethlehem. Once they have arrived the parent at Nazareth says:

Welcome to Nazareth, where Jesus learned to crawl and walk, to run and play. This is the place where Jesus grew up with the love of family and friends.

- a) *Do you remember where you liked to play when you were younger?*
- b) *Think of a memory from your childhood with family or friends that always make you smile when you remember it?"*

Open your journal and in silence write a phrase or a word that came to mind as you thought about the places of your childhood.

[Leave some time, 2 minutes or so, for participants to reflect and write a word or phrase about these questions in their journals. At the conclusion of 2 minutes give the clue.]

CLUE: As Jesus grew in awareness, he was called from Nazareth to the water in what became the model for the first sacrament. Go now to the water.

Jordan River

(Tape this section on the back of the road sign for the parent to read.)

- 3) **Jordon River** - the group makes it way to the Jordan River from Nazareth. Once they have arrived the parent at the Jordan River says:

Welcome to the Jordan River, where Jesus met his cousin John the Baptist. It was here that Jesus was baptized with water and the Holy Spirit. After his baptism the heavens opened and God declared, 'This is my son, with whom I am well pleased.' Most of us were baptized as infants. At that celebration our parents and godparents were well pleased.

a) *When else in your life have your parents expressed that they were pleased with you?*

b) *Where were you baptized and who was present?*

Open your journal and in silence write a phrase or a word that came to mind as you thought about a time that your parents were pleased with you.

[Leave some time, 2 minutes or so, for participants to reflect and write a word or phrase about these questions in their journals. At the conclusion of 2 minutes give the clue.]

CLUE: After being baptized Jesus had a large family event to go to where his first miracle was performed. Go now to the place of that celebration.

Cana

(Tape this section on the back of the road sign for the parent to read.)

- 4) **Cana** - the group makes it way to Cana from the Jordan River. Once they have arrived the parent at the Cana says:

Welcome to the Wedding Feast at Cana. Here Jesus and his mother Mary attended a famous wedding. It was Mary who told Jesus that the wedding party was out of wine. At first Jesus was reluctant to do anything but his mother insisted. Jesus performed the miracle of Cana turning water into wine.

- a) *When in your life has your parent encouraged you to move beyond yourself?*
- b) *When in your life has your parent encouraged you to share a gift?*
- c) *When in your life has your parent encouraged you when you had doubts?*

Open your journal and in silence write a phrase or a word that came to mind as you thought about a time that your parents encouraged you.

[Leave some time, 2 minutes or so, for participants to reflect and write a word or phrase about these questions in their journals. At the conclusion of 2 minutes give the clue.]

CLUE: Go now to the town of a famous tax collector who liked to climb trees.

Jericho

(Tape this section on the back of the road sign for the parent to read.)

- 5) **Jericho** - the group makes it way to Jericho from Cana. Once they have arrived the parent at Jericho says:

Welcome to the town of Jericho, where Zacchaeus, a tax collector, sought out Jesus. Zacchaeus was not a tall man. He was, however, a very effective tax collector. When Jesus came to town he could not see through the crowds. He was so determined to see Jesus that he climbed a tree to get a better view. When Jesus walked by the tree, he called him by name saying, 'Come down Zaccheus.' From that moment on, Zaccheus gave up his wealth and followed Jesus.

- a) *When have you been called out for doing something that you should not have done?*
- b) *Can you remember a time that you were in trouble, but your parent still loved you despite the situation you were in?*

Open your journal and in silence write a phrase or a word that came to mind as you thought about a time that you were in trouble.

[Leave some time, 2 minutes or so, for participants to reflect and write a word or phrase about these questions in their journals. At the conclusion of 2 minutes give the clue.]

CLUE: In the midst of turmoil Jesus knows how to calm things down. Go now to the place where Jesus calmed the waters so that the boat would stop being tossed about.

Sea of Galilee

(Tape this section on the back of the road sign for the parent to read.)

- 6) **Sea of Galilee** - the group makes it way to the Sea of Galilee from Jericho. Once they have arrived the parent at the Sea of Galilee says:

Welcome to the Sea of Galilee, where the disciples were afraid because of a storm rocking their boat. In the chaos of the night filled with strong waves, thunder, and wind they all forgot that Jesus was with them. Jesus calmed the storm and the fears of those who followed him. Jesus also rebuked them for having "little faith."

- a) *Can you remember a time when your family moved, or your parent(s) deployed when thing felt like they were out of control?*
- b) *Was there someone you could turn to so that the waves did not overwhelm you?*
- c) *Have you ever considered how your faith in Jesus Christ helps you weather life's ups and downs?*

Open your journal and in silence write a phrase or a word that came to mind as you thought about a time that you were overwhelmed.

[Leave some time, 2 minutes or so, for participants to reflect and write a word or phrase about these questions in their journals. At the conclusion of 2 minutes give the clue.]

CLUE: Life keeps going on and so must your journey. Travel now to the place where the soldier's servant is sick.

Capernaum

(Tape this section on the back of the road sign for the parent to read.)

- 7) **Capernaum, Heals centurion's servant** - the group makes it way to Capernaum from the Sea of Galilee. Once they have arrived the parent at Capernaum says:

Welcome to Capernaum. When Jesus traveled here there were great crowds that came to see him because they had heard of his ministry and miracles. The soldier centurion approached Jesus to plead for his servant who was ill. The Lord was amazed at the centurion's faith and offered to come and heal the servant. The centurion recited the prayer we now pray before receiving communion, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my servant shall be healed." (Note: we now say, "and my soul shall be healed.")

- a) *When have you given something up to help someone in your family?*
- b) *What was it like to do something for someone else when it conflicted with what you wanted to do for yourself?*

Open your journal and in silence write a phrase or a word that came to mind as you thought about a time when you gave something up.

[Leave some time, 2 minutes or so, for participants to reflect and write a word or phrase about these questions in their journals. At the conclusion of 2 minutes give the clue.]

CLUE: This journey is tiring. Go to the next place where you can take some time to rest at the well.

Samaria

(Tape this section on the back of the road sign for the parent to read.)

8) Samaria, Talks to the Samaritan woman - the group makes it way to Samaria from Capernaum. Once they have arrived the parent at Samaria says:

Welcome to the well outside of Samaria. Many people come to get water from the well. The jugs of water are heavy, so it is best to come in the morning or early evening when it is cool, but the Samaritan woman comes in the middle of the day when it is very hot and no one else is around. No one wanted to associate with her because she had sinned. Jesus meets her at the well and asks for a drink.

- a) *Can you remember a time when you cast someone away because of what they said or did?*
- b) *Can you remember a time when you welcomed and loved someone despite what they said or did?*
- c) *How does the example of Christ help us to reconcile with one another?*

Open your journal and in silence write a phrase or a word that came to mind as you thought about a time that you cast someone aside.

[Leave some time, 2 minutes or so, for participants to reflect and write a word or phrase about these questions in their journals. At the conclusion of 2 minutes give the clue.]

CLUE: Refreshed, it is now time to go visit dear friends because you have heard troubling news.

Bethany

(Tape this section on the back of the road sign for the parent to read.)

- 9) **Bethany, Raises Lazarus** - the group makes it way to Bethany from Samaria. Once they have arrived the parent at Bethany says:

Welcome to Bethany, where Jesus often met with his good friends Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. When Lazarus became ill, Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus. He got to Bethany as quick as he could but by the time, he arrived Lazarus was already dead. Jesus felt the pain of loss. Visiting the tomb, Jesus called out to him, 'Lazarus come out' and Lazarus came back from the dead.

- a) *When in your life have you felt loss?*
- b) *Has there ever been a time when you were not able to be with loved ones in a time of sorrow?*

Open your journal and in silence write a phrase or a word that came to mind as you thought about a time that you felt or experienced loss.

[Leave some time, 2 minutes or so, for participants to reflect and write a word or phrase about these questions in their journals. At the conclusion of 2 minutes give the clue.]

CLUE: Having visited with good friends it is now time to go back to the hungry crowds that have very little food.

Bethsaida

(Tape this section on the back of the road sign for the parent to read.)

10) **Bethsaida, Feeds 5000** - the group makes it way to Bethsaida from Bethany. Once they have arrived the parent at Bethsaida says:

Welcome to Bethsaida, where crowds of people came to hear Jesus. They wanted to know how to live a good life, what there was to hope in, and how God was calling them to serve one another. In their hunger, Jesus fed them all with the miracle of the two fish and five loaves multiplied.

- a) *What questions do you have about the direction of your life?*
- b) *Did you ever think of your parents as a sounding board to share your dreams, your questions, and even your worries?*

Open your journal and in silence write a phrase or a word that came to mind as you thought about the future direction of your life.

[Leave some time, 2 minutes or so, for participants to reflect and write a word or phrase about these questions in their journals. At the conclusion of 2 minutes give the clue.]

CLUE: Jesus welcomed all who came to listen and learn. It is time now to go to a place set apart from the crowds on the other side of the Sea of Galilee, with a high altitude.

Mount Tabor

(Tape this section on the back of the road sign for the parent to read.)

11) **Mount Tabor, Transfiguration** - the group makes it way to Mount Tabor from Bethsaida. Once they have arrived the parent at Mount Tabor says:

Welcome to Mount Tabor. Here Jesus hiked up to the top of the mountain with Peter, James, and John. On the mountaintop Jesus was transfigured, his face was as bright as the sun, his garments became as white snow. The disciples experienced the divinity of Jesus shining throughout his whole body. Although the disciples did not know it this was a time of seeing the glory of heaven that would be attained through great suffering.

- a) *When in your life have you seen things in new ways?*
- b) *Are you open to moving beyond what you think or want things to be to realize what they truly are?*

Open your journal and in silence write a phrase or a word that came to mind as you thought about seeing things in new ways.

[Leave some time, 2 minutes or so, for participants to reflect and write a word or phrase about these questions in their journals. At the conclusion of 2 minutes give the clue.]

CLUE: You must journey now to where Jesus' life ends. You will enter the city like royalty, but in that place, life comes to an end.

Jerusalem

(Tape this section on the back of the road sign for the parent to read.)

12) Jerusalem, Crucifixion and Resurrection - the group makes it way to Jerusalem from Mount Tabor. Once they have arrived the parent at Jerusalem says:

Welcome to Jerusalem, the holy city. Jesus came into town being hailed and praised with palms, just like the ones we use on Palm Sunday. Here Jesus was afraid and asked his disciples to stay awake with him to pray. They all fell asleep and one of them went off to betray him. Jesus was nailed to a cross and on that cross, he died [pause silently for 30 seconds.] As the body of Jesus was laid in the tomb, the disciples lost hope. The world as they knew it had come to a terrible end.

- a) *Can you remember a time in your life when you have felt alone?*
- b) *A time when no one seemed to understand what you were going through?*
- c) *As you look back over those moments can you recognize that Jesus was with you in the midst of that turmoil?*

Open your journal and in silence write a phrase or a word that came to mind as you thought about being alone.

[Leave some time, 2 minutes or so, for participants to reflect and write a word or phrase about these questions in their journals. At the conclusion of 2 minutes give the clue.]

CLUE: As the disciples hid, rumors flew that the body of Jesus was missing. Peter, the oldest disciple and John, the youngest disciple raced to the tomb together. Fear and wonder encompassed their entire being. Go now to the place where the disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Emmaus

(Tape this section on the back of the road sign for the parent to read.)

13) Emmaus, Appears after resurrection - the group makes it way to Emmaus from Jerusalem. Once they have arrived the parent at Emmaus says:

Welcome to Emmaus, where on the road two disciples encountered another traveler. They talked to him about their despairing having lost the one in whom they had put all their hope. Throughout the day they treated this man as just another traveler on the road. As they sat down to eat, they realized that the one who broke the bread was indeed Jesus the Christ. He had risen from the dead and their hope had been restored.

a) *Can you remember a time that things seemed so awful that they would never get better?*

b) *Who or what brought you the hope that helped you to move out of that situation?*

Open your journal and in silence write a phrase or a word that came to mind as you thought about finding hope.

[Leave some time, 2 minutes or so, for participants to reflect and write a word or phrase about these questions in their journals. At the conclusion of 2 minutes give the clue.]

CLUE: You have traveled as a group reflecting on the life of Jesus and your own life, too. Listen now as our leader gives us our final instructions.

Leader:

You have journeyed through the life of Jesus. The Son of God knows what it is like to grow up in a transient family. He left the place where he was born. He travelled in and out of people's lives. He was accepted in some places, rejected in others. He mourned the loss of good friends. Yet Jesus showed us how to give thanks to God for every experience in our journey of faith:

- a) In the times that we are afraid or feel alone.
- b) In the times when our family celebrates.
- c) In the times when we look back and realize that we really were not ever alone.

Having gone on this journey we now invite you to spend a half hour with your journal. Return now to the location in Jesus' life that you are drawn to and spend some time reflecting both on your experiences and the experiences of Jesus at that location. In your journal consider what it means to realize that Jesus was with you even though you may not have recognized it at the time. At the conclusion of 30 minutes, we will gather for our closing prayer.

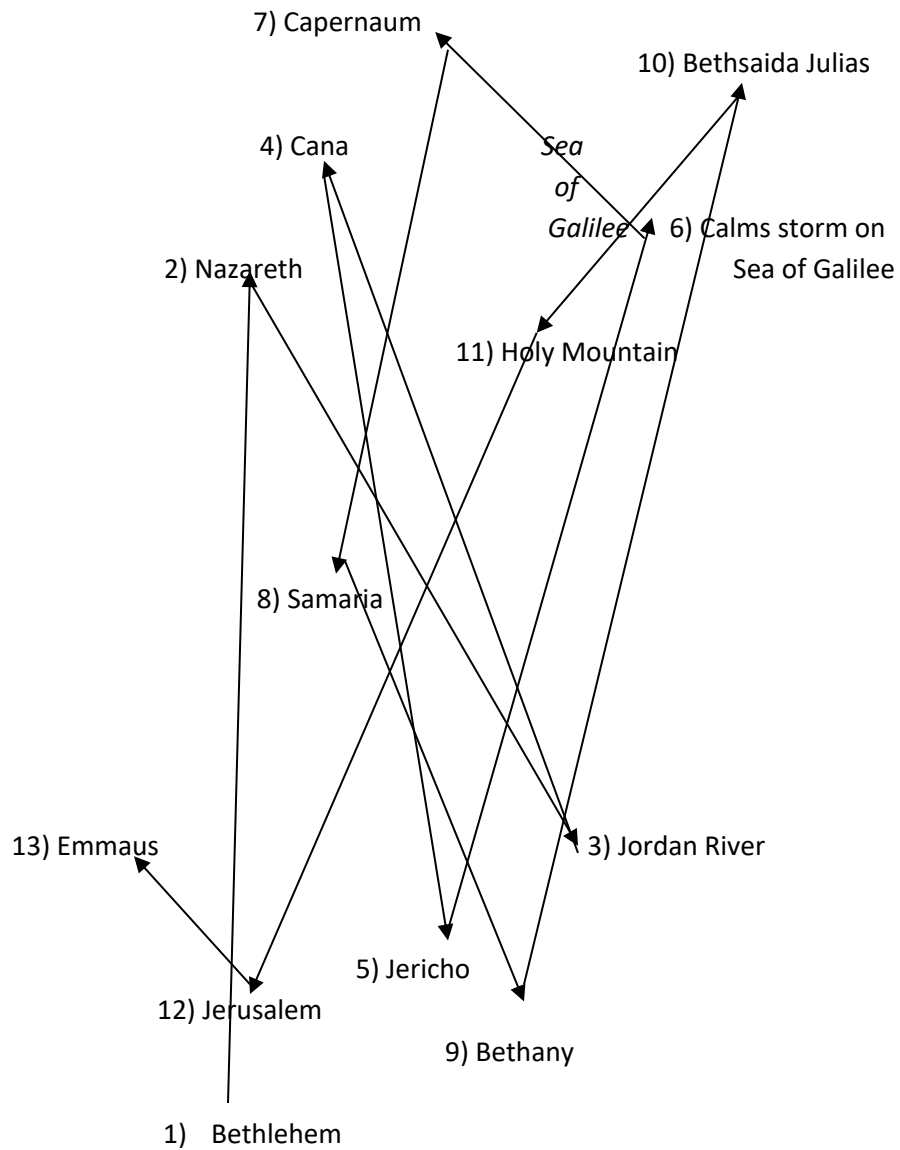
CLOSING PRAYER

We gather having reflecting on the life of Jesus and our own lives too. We recall that Jesus moved from place to place. He experienced life to the full and calls us to do the same.

We too have many road signs in our lives and yet we too are called to venture forth and recognize God in new places, new people, and new cultures. Today we pray for all those in our mobile society who are preparing for a transition. Those moving, those having friends move, those deploying and those returning from deployment. Bless these transitions and help us to be aware of the needs of the people in our community experiencing these transitions.

As we strive to be disciples, students, and followers of Jesus, we remember that we too are called to be hope for others. With gratitude we give thanks to God our Father for the gift of his son and the gift of our journey of life with. We bring all of our prayers and thoughts together as we pray:

Hail Mary...



Site set-up and path for *Jesus on the Move* exercise.

Parent Order Sheet

Parent order sheet – retreat leader, make sure to print 15 copies of this order sheet. Be sure to circle or highlight the assigned station so that the parents know when the group will be coming to them.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1) Bethlehem (Lk 2, 1-7) | Jesus' Birth |
| 2) Nazareth (Lk 2, 39-40) | Where Jesus grew up |
| 3) Jordan River (Mk 1, 9-11) | Where Jesus was baptized |
| 4) Cana (Jn 2, 1-11) | The Wedding Feast at Cana miracle |
| 5) Jericho (Lk 19, 1-10) | Jesus calls Zacchaeus |
| 6) Sea of Galilee (Mk 4, 35-41) | Jesus calms the storm |
| 7) Capernaum (Mt 8, 5-13) | Jesus heals the centurion's servant |
| 8) Samaria (Jn 4, 4-42) | Jesus talks to the Samaritan woman |
| 9) Bethany (Jn 11, 1-44) | Jesus raises Lazarus |
| 10) Bethsaida (Lk 9, 10-17) | Jesus feeds 5000 |
| 11) Holy Mountain (Mt 17, 1-13) | The Transfiguration of Jesus |
| 12) Jerusalem (Mt 21, 1- 11) | Crucifixion and Resurrection |
| 13) Emmaus (Lk 24, 13-35) | Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus |

During the journal time parents are invited to journal about their experiences during this exercise. They may want to focus on the location they held the road sign for.