

SONG 5

Out of Thee – Mary & Joseph, City of David

Read: Luke 2:1–5; Micah 5:2

HYMN Song + film · premieres Sunday, November 29

CAROL Song · releases Sunday, November 29

KNOW THE SETTING

"There went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed" (Luke 2:1), and each person went "into his own city" (Luke 2:3).

Joseph went to "the city of David, which is called Bethlehem" (Luke 2:4), "because he was of the house and lineage of David" (Luke 2:4), with Mary, "being great with child" (Luke 2:5).

Centuries earlier, the prophet Micah had named this small town.

WHO SPEAKS

- Luke narrates the journey.
- Micah the prophet (Micah 5:2)
- In Matthew, the chief priests and scribes quote Micah to Herod (Matthew 2:5–6).

LOOK CLOSER

- Micah calls Bethlehem "little among the thousands of Judah" (Micah 5:2). When the chief priests quote it in Matthew, they say Bethlehem "art not the least among the princes of Juda" (Matthew 2:6). *Reflection:* small in size, it was not least in purpose.
- Micah says the coming ruler's "goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2).
- Luke does not mention a donkey or describe the road. Our pictures show a donkey as an artistic choice.

CONNECT THE SCRIPTURES

- **1 Samuel 16:1:** David's family came from Bethlehem: "Jesse the Bethlehemite" (1 Samuel 16:1)
- **Genesis 35:19:** Bethlehem's older name: "Ephrath, which is Bethlehem" (Genesis 35:19)
- **Matthew 2:6:** "For out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel" (Matthew 2:6)

What this reveals about God. God keeps His promises across centuries, and He chooses small places for great purposes.

PONDER

1. Bethlehem was "little." Why might God choose small places and ordinary people?
2. Joseph traveled because of a government decree. How can ordinary duties become part of God's purposes?
3. What does it mean to you that the Child's goings forth were "from everlasting" (Micah 5:2)?

TALK ABOUT IT

What "little" place or season in your life turned out to matter more than you expected?

SING THE VERSE

"For out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel" (Matthew 2:6)

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