**Wednesday - R.E. Journeys**

Read pages 42 - 43

Jesus would have gone to the synagogue, every week on the Sabbath (Shabbat). He would have listened to readings from the Scriptures and sung psalms. On three special occasions each year, it is possible he would have journeyed to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate the feasts that highlight the Jewish Year.

As the people travelled along, they often sang to keep themselves cheerful and pass the time, but each day, at particular times, they sang their prayers in preparation for the feast they were going to celebrate. These ‘song-prayers’ are called psalms and we still sing these Jewish prayers today. Perhaps you can try to remember the next time you say or sing a psalm (at Mass, for instance) that these psalms are the very same prayers that Jesus himself used to pray.

There were particular psalms that people used on the way to feasts in Jerusalem, they were called *foot* psalms or *pilgrimage* psalms, as they were said as people went on foot to Jerusalem.

There were particular psalms for each stage of the journey, looking forward to the moment when they would catch sight of the beautiful Temple as they came over the hill.

One particular psalm expressed the great joy of the pilgrim standing inside the Temple in God’s presence:

*‘I rejoiced when I heard them say: “Let us go to God’s house”.*

*And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.’*

Psalm 122

Use *God’s Story 3* pages 42-43 for other pilgrimage psalms 84, 122, 118.

**Answer the following questions in your book.**

Are there any songs you sing when you are travelling with your family?

How do you think the Jewish people felt when they first saw the Temple in Jerusalem? Remember they didn’t have televisions or cameras in those days, so they would not know what it would look like until they saw it.

What do you think the journey was like in Jesus’ time? Why do you think it would help to sing the psalms?