

F12. The Wise Men/Escape to Egypt

Matthew 2:1-23

Learning Objectives

1. The children will be able to recall the story of Jesus' birth.
2. The children will identify specific ways that they can worship God and His Son each day of their lives.

Memory Verse: *"...We have come to worship Him." --Matthew 2:2*

Getting Started

Choose One

All Ages

"Celebrate!"

As the children arrive, give them a party hat and/or a noise maker. You can also use simple decorations to create an environment of celebration. As the questions pour in, just let everyone know that today is a time to celebrate. (You will fill them in later in the lesson.) Recruit extra volunteers to join in on the big celebration as you learn about worship in today's lesson.

Grades 3-5

"The Magi Search for Jesus" Puzzle

www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → puzzles → Word Search → "The Magi Search for Jesus"

You will need to print out one sheet for each child and have pencils ready as the children enter class. This is a word simple word search with words that are relevant to the story of the Wise Men. Be sure to set a time limit. Reassure the children that they will have more time at the end of class, etc. to complete their word search if needed.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: *Make time to worship Him every day.*

Matthew 2 ~ The Wise Men Visit Jesus

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? When we were in the east, we saw his star. Now we have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ was going to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied. "This is what the prophet has written. He said, 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah. A ruler will come out of you. He will be the shepherd of my people Israel.' "

Then Herod called for the Wise Men secretly. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go! Make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, bring me a report. Then I can go and worship him too."

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - *continued*

After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when they were in the east went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, incense and myrrh. But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.

Jesus' Family Escapes to Egypt

When the Wise Men had left, Joseph had a dream. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph. "Get up!" the angel said. "Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to come back. Herod is going to search for the child. He wants to kill him."

So Joseph got up. During the night, he left for Egypt with the child and his mother Mary. 15 They stayed there until King Herod died. So the words the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true. He had said, "I brought my son out of Egypt.

Herod realized that the Wise Men had tricked him. So he became very angry. He gave orders about Bethlehem and the area around it. He ordered all the boys two years old and under to be killed. This agreed with the time when the Wise Men had seen the star. 17 In this way, the words Jeremiah the prophet spoke came true. He had said,

"A voice is heard in Ramah. It's the sound of crying and deep sadness. Rachel is crying over her children. She refuses to be comforted, because they are gone."

Jesus' Family Returns to Nazareth

After Herod died, Joseph had a dream while he was still in Egypt. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to him. The angel said, "Get up! Take the child and his mother. Go to the land of Israel. The people who were trying to kill the child are dead."

So Joseph got up. He took the child and his mother Mary back to the land of Israel. But then he heard that Archelaus was king of Judea. Archelaus was ruling in place of his father Herod. This made Joseph afraid to go there. Joseph had been warned in a dream. So he went back to the land of Galilee instead. There he lived in a town called Nazareth. So what the prophets had said about Jesus came true. They had said that he would be called a Nazarene.

Discussion Questions:

1. Wise men came from the east looking for Jesus. What did they follow to find him? *(A Star.)*
2. What did the visitors bring with them? *(Treasures or gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.)*
3. What did they want to do when they found Jesus? *(To worship Him and bring Him gifts.)*
4. What does worship mean? *(Discuss together. See Activity below "How do YOU Worship" for discussion guidance.)*
5. How would you have worshipped the Baby Jesus if you had been there when He was born? *(Discuss. Answers will vary.)*

Application to Real Life

Share a healthy snack together. Then proceed with the “Love Without End” Object talk (See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → objects → “Love without end” for details.) You will need a stuffed animal or similar object for this discussion. Through the discussion, you will compare getting a new toy and then setting it aside to how we sometimes set God aside. When we set a toy aside, we spend less and less time playing with it. When we set God aside, we spend less and less time praising and worshipping Him. We also may give less and less of our love to Him. God wants us to take the time to worship Him EVERY DAY, no matter what. In a small way or a very big way, we can find the time to worship Him. (Review the message statement and memory verse.)

Memory Work Fun

1. Name the two main parts of the Bible and tell what the difference is. (Old Testament – before Jesus, New Testament – Jesus & After Jesus)
2. Where is the book of Luke located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together.
3. Recite the memory verse.
4. Lead the class in a short prayer thanking God for sending baby Jesus and for giving us a special time to celebrate His birth each year.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages

Role Play: The Wise Men Follow the Star

Before Class: Gather the props for the play (star template). Print the star. Color and decorate the star. Print a copy of the play for each character. (See pages at the end of this lesson for the script and star template.)

A Jesus Baby Book

Did your mom or dad keep a baby book for you? You can make a baby book for Jesus. The children will draw pictures of things they have learned about Jesus from today’s lesson. Use Bible verses that tell about each picture. (Just put the verses at the bottom, not all the words. Let the picture be the words.) After the pictures are completed, stack the papers together and punch two holes on one end. (You may want to use heavy card stock or a similar material for the front and back covers of the baby book.) Thread a long piece of yarn through the holes and tie it to hold the papers together.

Sample Verses the children could illustrate:

1. “The angel greeted her...” --Luke 1:28 (Draw a picture of young Mary with the angel Gabriel)
2. “He went there with Mary to be listed...” --Luke 2:5 (Draw a picture of Mary riding on the donkey with Joseph on their way to Bethlehem to be counted.)
3. “You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.” --Luke 2:12
4. “Suddenly, a large group of angels from heaven also appeared.” --Luke 2:13 (Draw the angels)
5. “So they (the shepherds) hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby.” --Luke 2:16 (Draw the shepherds with some animals)
6. “After Jesus’ birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem.” --Matthew 2:1
7. “The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child and His mother Mary.” --Matthew 2:11

“How do YOU Worship?”

Talk with the children about the word “WORSHIP”. Write it on your easel or white board. Ask the children to tell you what they think it means. As they do, write down their responses all around the word “worship” that is on your easel. Then share with them the following (write down the definition in a different color on your easel):

What is Worship? – an expression of awe, it’s what you do each day to honor God for who He is, what He does, etc.

Is there a “right” way to worship? NO! There are lots of ways to worship God, and we may all choose to do it differently. It’s not just music or singing either.

Use the story to show different ways to worship God. List on your easel or white board the following four names. Look up in your Bibles (either as a group or have the verses written on index cards and let the children find different verses on their own) each of the verses to see how each of these people chose to *worship* the Lord Jesus.

Mary – Luke 1:46-55 (singing) and Luke 2:19 (in her thoughts)

Angels – Luke 2:13-14 (singing praises)

Shepherds – Luke 2:17 (shared the news with others)

Wise Men – Matthew 2:11 (bowed and worshipped, brought GIFTS to share)

Remind the children that there are many ways to worship God, to honor Him each day. God wants us to make the time each day to worship Him. (Review the message statement and or memory verse.)

Grades 3-5**“Who Gets the Glory?”**

See: www.kidsundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Who Gets the Glory?”

You will need to print copies of the activity page for each child before class. The children will read through each of five examples and distinguish “who gets the credit” in each situation. This exercise will help bring to their attention how easy it is to give ourselves all the credit or all the glory. We want to give the credit to others, especially to God. We want to worship Him through our thoughts and our words whenever given the opportunity.

Journal*Optional***Grades K-2**

Draw a picture of how you like to worship the Lord best. Write about it too.

Grades 3-5

What is your favorite way to worship God and Jesus? Why? Write about it.

Other Resources

www.daniellesplace.com → Resource Room → Search “Christmas” or “Worship”

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → NT Support Curriculum → Page 1 → “The Wise Men”/“Escape to Egypt”



Role Play: The Wise Men Follow the Star

Narrator 1: After Jesus was born, three wise men travelled to Jerusalem. *(The three wise men enter one side of the stage.)*

Wise Men 1: Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.

Narrator 2: King Herod also heard of their enquiries. He was shocked and feared that his power might be taken from him. *(King Herod enters.)*

King Herod: High priest! Scribe! Come, I need to talk to both of you! *(The high priest and scribe come running to King Herod. Herod turns to speak to them.)* Do you know where Christ, this new King, will be born?

High Priest: According to one of the prophets, He is to be born in Bethlehem.

King Herod: Go get the wise men and bring them to me. *(The high priest and scribe go to the wise men.)*

Scribe: *(Speaking to the three wise men.)* Wise men! King Herod would like to speak to you. Come with us. *(The high priest and scribe bring the three wise men to King Herod.)*

Narrator 1: King Herod wanted to know when they first discovered the star.

King Herod: *(Speaking to the three wise men.)* Go to Bethlehem. When you have found the Child, please let me know. I would like to worship Him. *(The wise men nod their heads. King Herod, the high priest and scribe exit.)*

Narrator 2: The king had very different plans. He did not want to worship Jesus. Instead, he wanted to harm the Child so that He would not take his place as king. The wise men had no idea of the king's wicked plan, so they set out on their journey.





Role Play: The Wise Men Follow the Star

Narrator 1: *(The person holding the star picture enters, stands in the centre of the stage and holds the picture up over their head. The wise men walk around the stage. Mary and Joseph enter holding baby Jesus, stop and stand beside the star. The three wise men walk towards Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.)* The three wise men followed the star to the young Child. They were filled with joy to find Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

Narrator 2: They fell down on their knees before the Child and worshipped Him. They gave Him gold, frankincense and myrrh as gifts. *(The three wise men fall to their knees and pretend to place their gifts beside baby Jesus. Once they have given their gifts, the three wise men exit the stage. Mary and Joseph fall asleep.)*

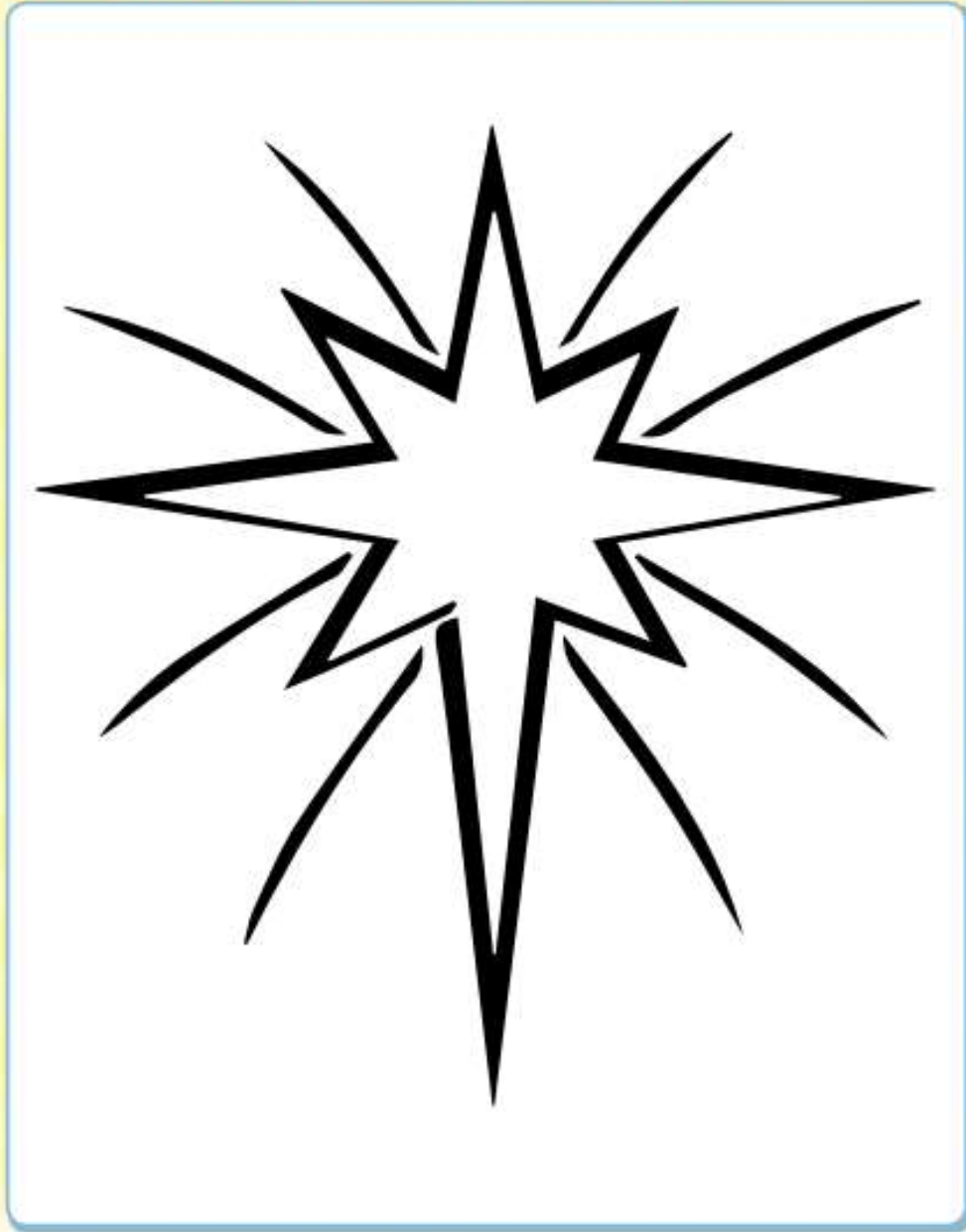
Narrator 1: In a dream, the wise men were warned not to report back to the king and to return home another way. When the wise men left, an angel also appeared to Joseph in a dream. *(The angel enters and goes to Joseph.)*

Angel: Take Mary and Joseph to Egypt and stay there until I come to you. The king wants to harm the Child.

Narrator 2: When Joseph woke up, he took Mary and Jesus to Egypt.



 **Role Play: The Wise Men Follow the Star**



Take Home Page: F12. The Wise Men/Escape to Egypt

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that God wants us to **make time to worship Him every day**. The children reviewed the story of Jesus' birth and how the wise men found Jesus. They also talked about specific ways they can worship God each day.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"...We have come to worship Him." --Matthew 2:2

Ask me...

1. How did the wise men find Jesus? What did they bring?
2. What did the wise men do when they finally found Jesus?
3. In what ways can we worship God each day?

Live Your Faith...

Spend time together singing your favorite songs from Sunday school or church or worship time. Try to do this every day this week, even if it's just one song each day. Talk with your child about how important it is to worship the Lord each day, and one easy way to do that is through songs and music. When you pray together, thank God for the gift of singing praises to Him.

