

Wise Men from Afar

Teacher Pep Talk: Say you are a wise man. You study the stars. In addition you have a working knowledge of mathematics and have read the ancient Hebrew scriptures. You know that one day a promised Savior will be born to the Jews. One night you notice a new star in the sky, and suddenly you realize: He has come!

How exciting! As a teacher, you get to help the children realize the wonder of the coming of the Messiah! The wise men must have felt both wonder and excitement. They realized that the promised King of the Jews had been born, and they sought Him out. They traveled a long way, they took Him gifts, and they worshiped Him!

You will need: Coloring page for each child. Glue, gold glitter, and newspaper. Costumes for skit (Optional) See skit for costume ideas.

Major Points: The wise men saw a star in the sky.
They knew the star meant that the Savior had been born.
They went searching for the Savior.
When they found Him they gave Him gifts and worshiped Him.
Jesus is God's gift to us!

Scripture Ref. Matthew 2:1-12

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

Lesson: **Christmas is fun!**

- Christmas is fun! And Christmas is exciting! What is the most fun (exciting) part about Christmas? (*Wait for answers.*)
- That's right! One of the most fun parts about Christmas is getting presents!! I love getting presents!! Don't you?!
- Can you tell me why we give each other presents at Christmas? (*Wait for answers. There will be quite a few.*)
- Yes, we give each other presents because we love each other and because we want to make the people we love happy. But there is another reason too!
- We give presents at Christmas because we remember that the wise men gave presents to baby Jesus when they found Him.

The wise men saw a star in the sky.

- Back when Jesus was born, there were some wise men who lived in surrounding countries and who studied the stars.
- One day the wise men noticed a brand new star in the heavens.
- They knew it meant that the Savior had been born!
- The wise men were very excited! They knew that the King of the Jews had been born, just like God had promised!

The wise men went searching for the Savior.

- The wise men traveled all the way from their countries to come and see baby Jesus.
- Since they were looking for a king, they naturally went to the capital city (Jerusalem) to see if He was there.
- They asked at the gate of the capital city “Where is He who is born King of the Jews?”
- They were told that He was to be born in Bethlehem.
- Happily, Bethlehem wasn’t very far away!

The wise men found Jesus!

- The wise men followed the star to Bethlehem and found Jesus!
- When they found Him they bowed down and worshiped Him.
- Then they gave Him gifts (gold, frankincense, and myrrh.)
- Jesus was the promised Savior and the King of the Jews.

We give gifts.

- So, now we give gifts at Christmas because we remember the gifts that the wise men gave to baby Jesus.
- We also remember that the best gift of all is Jesus!
- Jesus is God’s gift to us!

Prayer: Let’s pray and thank God for giving us this wonderful gift!

Dear God,
Thank you for giving us this wonderful gift!
Thank you for sending us Jesus, your One and Only Son.
Thank you for Christmas.
We love you. Amen.

Suggested Activities: (Pick and choose the activities that work best for you!)

Sparkling Star Craft

Spread out newspapers to protect from messes. Allow children to put glue on the star on the craft paper. Sprinkle with glitter. Tap off excess. Allow to dry!

Act out Narrated Christmas Skit

Children this young really need to act out the parts of the Christmas story to be able to understand all that happened. Use the narrated script for Preschool to Kindergarten age children to help them act out the parts of the kings, as well as Mary and Joseph.

Ideas for Costumes:

Children this young are happy with very simple costumes. For example: Large pieces of cloth (about 4x4 feet square) make excellent capes and/or head coverings. If you cut a hole in the center (for the children’s heads to go through) they also make great robes. Use narrow bands of fabric for a sashes or belts. Circles of tinsel make wonderful halos for angels. Make a manger out of a laundry basket covered with a blanket or towels. Have a baby doll to represent the baby Jesus. Make sure the children handle the baby doll gently and with respect, since it is representing the baby Jesus.

WISE MEN FROM AFAR – CHRISTMAS SKIT

NARRATOR:

When Jesus was born, some wise men, who lived far away, noticed a new star in the heavens. They were very excited!

The wise men knew that the new star meant that the Savior had been born!

They wanted to see Him. So they followed the star in order to find Him.

The wise men knew that the baby was the promised King of the Jews.

Since they were looking for a king, they went to the capital city. The wise men stood in the gates of the capital city and said “Where is He who is born King of the Jews?” “We have come to worship Him!”

They were told that the Savior was to be born in Bethlehem.

The wise men were happy! Bethlehem wasn’t very far away! Soon they would see Him!

They followed the star to Bethlehem, and found the young child, Jesus.

When they found Him they bowed down and worshiped Him.

Then they opened their treasures and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The wise men were very glad they had found Jesus! We can be glad too!

We give gifts at Christmas because we remember the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus.

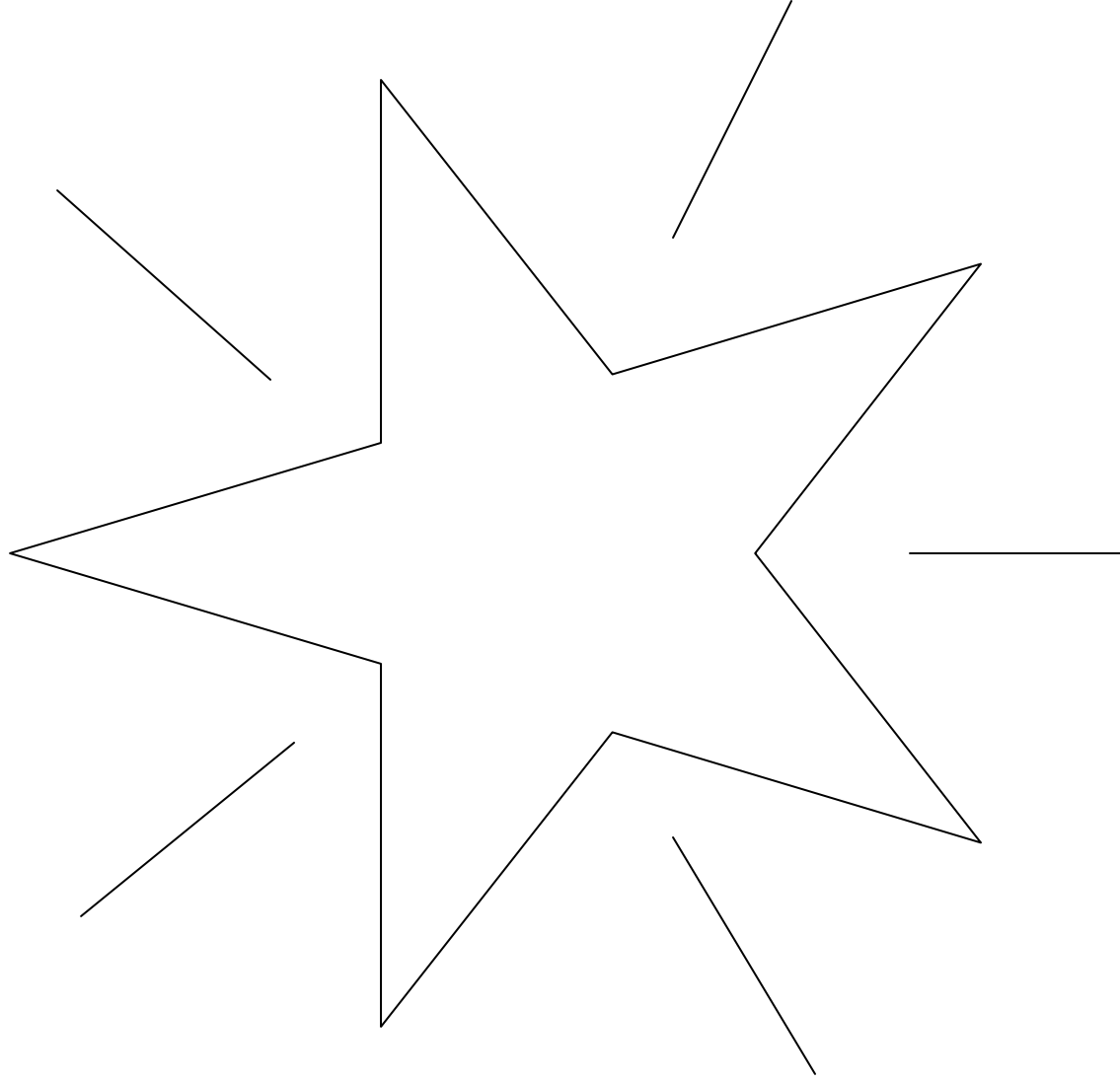
We also know that Jesus is God’s gift to us!

The wise men worshiped Jesus and we can too! Like the wise men we can all say...

EVERYONE:

We have come to worship Him!

THE END



A Special
Star
Shone in the
Sky
That Night!

