

Lesson 6 – The Visit of the Wise Men

Teacher Prep: Right on time! The Messiah had been born right on time, the star had appeared right on time and now the Wise Men would visit the Christ Child, right on time! They had traveled from the east and moved towards Jerusalem, which was near Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. When they arrived in Jerusalem, they caused quite a stir with their questions at the city gate. “Where is He who is born King of the Jews?” they asked. Herod wanted to know as well.

Major Points:

- The Wise Men See a Star**
- The Wise Men Travel to Jerusalem**
- The Wise Men Talk with Herod**
- The Wise Men Travel to Bethlehem**
- The Wise Men Worship Jesus and Bring Him Gifts**
- The Wise Men Go Home a Different Way**

Scripture Ref: **Matthew 2:1-12** – The Story of the Visit of the Magi (Wise Men)
Matthew 2:11 ...*they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him.*

Add. Reading: <https://answersingenesis.org/holidays/christmas/a-matter-of-time/>

Lesson:

The Wise Men See a Star

- Christmas was here! Did you enjoy it? (*Wait for answers.*)
- I did too! I got some presents, too!
- My favorite present was _____. (*Give example.*)
 - *If the children want to tell you about their presents, you may choose whether or not to let them talk about them.*
 - *Be sensitive to children who might not have gotten many (or any) presents*
- Do you know WHY we give presents at Christmas-time?
 - One reason is that we are happy that God sent Jesus, who is the GREATEST present of all!
 - Another reason is that we love our family and want to help them celebrate the Christmas Season.
 - And another reason is that a long time ago, some wise men brought presents to Baby Jesus.
- We are going to talk about the Wise Men today.
- A long time ago, before Jesus was born, people were waiting for the Messiah to come!
- The Jewish people were expecting Him to be born.
- They knew the time was getting close, but they didn't know exactly when it would happen.
- There were even people in other countries who knew He would be born!

- They knew that He would be the King of the Jews!
- Then one day... a special star appeared in the sky.
 - One that was so unusual that it got the attention of some learned men who lived in a country east of Israel.
- These wise men, who had been waiting for the Messiah to be born, were convinced that this wonderful thing had happened!
- They decided to go and find this new King, who had been born!

The Wise Men Travel to Jerusalem

- And so, these wise men came to Israel to find this new King!
- If you traveled to a distant country to find a king, where would you look for him? (*Wait for answers.*)
 - You might look in a castle.
 - You might look in town that was the seat of government.
 - You might look in the biggest city.
- When the Wise Men arrived in Israel, they went to Jerusalem.
 - It was the biggest city in Israel.
 - It's where the Temple of God was.
 - It's also where the ruler of Israel, King Herod, lived.
- When they arrived in Jerusalem, they asked one question...
- "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?"
- Then they explained; "For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

The Wise Men Talk with Herod

- This question of theirs wasn't quickly answered.
 - No one seemed to know where the new King was!
 - No one knew what to tell the Wise Men.
- The Wise Men ended up talking with King Herod, who was the current ruler of Israel.
 - And he wasn't happy about their question at all!
- **Read Matthew 2:3** "*When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.*"
- Herod asked the chief priests and scribes of Israel where the Messiah was to be born
- And they knew, because it was written in God's Word.
- **Read Matthew 2:5-6** "*In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:*
'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH,
ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH;
FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER
WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'"
- So, the King of the Jews was to be born in Bethlehem!
- **Read Matthew 2:7-8** *Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. And he*

sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him."

- So, Herod spoke secretly with the Wise Men and asked when the star they had seen had appeared. He wanted the exact time.
- Then he asked them to go to Bethlehem and find the Child, and when they had found Him to report back to Herod, so that he could go and worship Him also.
 - But Herod had no intention of worshipping Jesus

The Wise Men Travel to Bethlehem

- The Wise Men then left Herod and traveled to Bethlehem.
- God provided the same star they had seen in the east to lead them to the exact house where the Child Jesus was living.
- They were overjoyed to see the star again!
- It led them right to Jesus!

The Wise Men Worship Jesus and Bring Him Presents

- **Read Matthew 2:11** *After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*
- Wow! God had led them by the star and they found Jesus!
- What was the first thing they did when they found Him?
 - They fell to the ground and worshiped Him!
- Worship was ONLY to be given to God, so the Wise Men knew that Jesus was God. This is REALLY important for us to know!
- Then what did they do? (*Wait for answers*)
- They gave Him presents!
 - Gold, frankincense and myrrh

The Wise Men Go Home a Different Way

- **Read Matthew 2:12** *And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.*
- After their visit was over, and they may have stayed quite a while, the Wise Men went home to their own country
- But God warned them in a dream NOT to return to Herod
- So, the Wise Men went back to their own country by a different way than they had come.
- In this way, God protected Jesus, Mary and Joseph!

Let's pray and thank God that He sent His Son, Jesus!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you sent your Son, Jesus!
Thank you for the star that led the Wise Men!

Thank you that the Wise Men worshiped Jesus!
Thank you for loving us!
We love you back!
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities that will work best with your group.

Sing a Christmas Song – *The children will listen to Christmas songs and sing along.*

Before Class: Arrange for Christmas music to play in your classroom. Provide the words for “We Three Kings” and/or “O, Come Let Us Adore Him” on a song sheet, so that the children can sing along. Decide how many verses you will present of each.

During Class: Pass out the words to the songs. Play music and sing! Explain any words to the songs that the children might not understand by themselves.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star.

(Refrain)

O, star of wonder, star of light
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and Praising, voices raising,
Worshiping God on high.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Sounds through the earth and skies.

O, Come Let Us Adore Him

O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye o come ye
To Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels!

(Chorus)

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ, the Lord!

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens
Of Heaven above
Glory to God
All glory in the highest

(Chorus)

Yes Lord, we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all
Glory giv’n.
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing.

(Chorus)

How Many Wise Men? – *The children will talk about how many Wise Men there were.*

Before Class: Provide Bibles for the children to use in small groups.

During Class: Break into small groups with at least one Bible in each group. Have the children read through the story of the Visit of the Wise Men (Magi). Ask them to figure out how many Wise Men there were in the group. If they believe it is three, ask them to find the Bible verse that tells how many there were. The answer is that there is no verse telling how many Wise Men there were. The tradition is that there were three, because there were three gifts, but we don't know for sure how many there were.

Wise Men Still Seek Him – *The children will make a Christmas Card for a loved one.*

Before Class: Arrange for construction paper, markers, crayons, pencils, glue, glitter, and any other decorations the children may use to create a Christmas card. If you plan on using glue and glitter, remember to cover the work area with a plastic tablecloth.

During Class: Write on the board, "Wise Men Still Seek Him", and/or the Bible verse for the day. Pass out the construction paper and materials and allow the children to make Christmas Cards for their parents or other family members. They might want to write the words on the board on their card. They may wish to draw a picture of the Three Wise Men on their way to Bethlehem being led by the star, or of them worshipping Baby Jesus in the Stable. Allow them to draw their pictures as they wish. Remember that gold glitter makes a very convincing star!

The Three Gifts – *The children will learn more about the gifts the Wise Men brought and create a picture of them.*

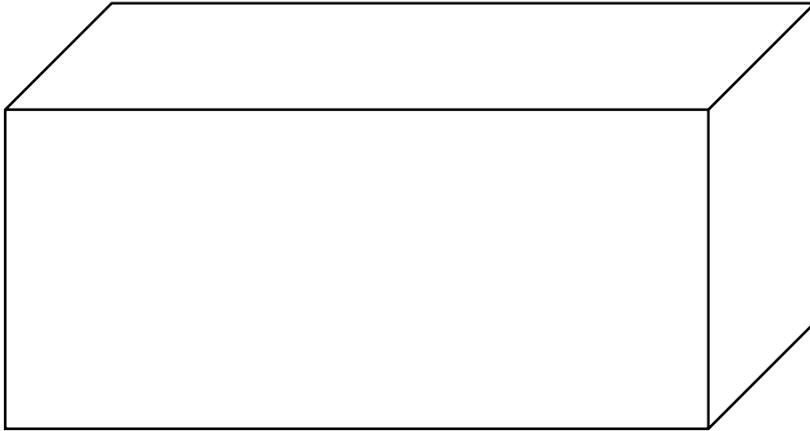
Before Class: Provide paper and pencils as well as crayons or markers. Also make a copy of the Activity Sheet for each child. Consider scissors and glue as well.

During Class: **Read Matthew 2:11** *After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.* Discuss the gifts the Wise Men brought to Jesus. You may use the information below to help.

Discussion: Gold was the type of gift that was brought to a King. They were honoring Jesus as the King of the Jews and Lord of lords. Frankincense was an incense that was for the worship of God. They gave Jesus this to honor Him as being Divine (God). Myrrh was given to Him to symbolize His humanity, as myrrh was used at that time to prepare the body for burial when a person died. All of these were costly gifts, and were given to honor the young Christ Child, who was at once King, God, and Man.

Activity: Let the children use the objects on the Activity Sheet as the Three Gifts. Allow them to color the objects, drawing in gold in the treasure box, frankincense in the cup, and myrrh in the covered container. Let them cut them out and put them on a different sheet of paper, if so desired.

Alternatively: Allow the children to draw The Three Gifts on a piece of paper and decorate them. On their paper they may want to write the words: "...they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11.



*“...they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”
Matthew 2:11.*

