

The Birth of Christ

"The Wise Men - Gifts for Jesus"

Bible Story: The Birth of Christ – The Wise Men – Matthew 2:1-12

Bible Lesson: The Wise Men

Read Matthew 2:1-12 aloud to the children. – Or you can read the story out of The Action Bible!

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. ² They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east. We came to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard about this new king of the Jews, he was troubled. And all the people in Jerusalem were worried too. ⁴ Herod called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ would be born. ⁵ They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this in the Scriptures:

*⁶ 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are important among the rulers of Judah.
A ruler will come from you.*

He will be like a shepherd for my people, the Israelites.'" Micah 5:2

⁷ Then Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men from the east. He learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. ⁸ Then Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. He said to them, "Go and look carefully to find the child. When you find Him, come tell me. Then I can go worship him too."

*⁹ The wise men heard the king and then left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east. It went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹ **They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped the child. They opened the gifts they brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.** ¹² But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So, they went home to their own country by a different way.*

Discussion:

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea.

- So, Jesus was born in a little town in the region of Judea. Herod was the ruler of that region. He is not a very nice guy!

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."

- What made that star different from all of the others? It doesn't say in the Bible, but it must have been a pretty special star in order for them to be able to follow it.

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.

- Why would a king, a grown man, be upset by a baby being born? **Because, it was the prophecy that He would be the king of the Jews. The Jews lived in the region of Judea and Herod was the king. He didn't anyone coming in and taking over his kingdom. What Herod didn't understand was that Jesus' kingdom is in heaven, not on earth.**

"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." "
—(Micah 5:2)

- This was one of many prophecies that Jesus fulfilled in His short life of 33 years.

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."

- Herod doesn't want to worship Jesus. We find out later that Herod wants to kill Jesus.

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 star was moving with the Wise Men to show them the way. It finally stopped over there Jesus was. They must have thought this was a really funny place for a king to be born – in a stable. Just imagine if you were one of the Wise Men...they actually got to see Jesus as a baby!

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.

- Those are funny gifts to give to a baby!
- **The gold** was because He was a king.
- **The incense** was because He was Holy – would bring our requests before God.
- **The myrrh** was because He would sacrifice Himself for our salvation.

But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So, they returned to their country on a different road.

- God made sure that Herod wouldn't find out exactly where Jesus was born, because Herod wanted to kill Him.

Key Points:

- Wise Men seek Jesus – Seeking Jesus is always the wise thing to do. **(discuss with kids why this is important)*
- No one is too far away from God. *(Remind kids they should never forget how close Jesus is to them)*
- God wants us to be humble. *(the importance of being loving and humble)*

After talking about the Wise Men, talk about Herod. Point out that he was also king. He was rich and had great possessions, just like the Wise Men. But, Herod chose not to go and see Jesus. He was proud and loved his power more than he wanted to know God. He was willing to do bad things to Jesus and many other people to keep his power.

Talk about how the Wise Men chose to bring gifts to offer Jesus. **Ask the child what gift they would take to a newborn king.**

Explain that Jesus wants a gift from us – our hearts.

Memory Verse:

"The Wise Men went to the house. They bowed down and worshiped him. They gave him gold, incense and myrrh." Matthew 2:11

Close in Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank You for giving us the gift of Jesus, the greatest Christmas gift of all. Please help me to remember why we celebrate. I am very thankful for the real reason for the season and, without Jesus, we wouldn't have Christmas! I love You and thank You for giving us this day!

In Jesus' Name - Amen

Activity/Craft: Three Wise Men Traveling

Items Needed: Template, Scissors, glue, coloring pencils, crayons, markers.



Videos:

Here is a video to help explain the story as well:

Jesus & The Wise Men

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk1LhngROCM>

Little Drummer Boy: on www.hulu.com

Activity Sheets:

- Wise Men Journey Maze
- Wise Men Coloring Page

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went!
Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day &
Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

Thank you to <https://ministry-to-children.com/> and www.truwaykids.com
for their resources and helping share the gospel with all children
and www.teacherspayteachers.com for their craft ideas

“All kings
shall fall
down before
him.”

Psalm
27:11 KJV



Travel with the Wise Men

Make your way across the desert from the oasis to Bethlehem. Stay on the lighter colored paths and do not cross over rocks, plants or any little desert creatures.





