

**STORY**

The Wise Men - Matthew 2:1-23

**TEACHER PRAYER**

O Lord, You led the wise men with Your Word and a star to find and worship the Savior of the world. Help me to use Your word as a guiding star for the students entrusted to my guidance. Give all of us a desire to seek You as our Savior and King and to worship you with our gifts. Guide us. Protect us from evil. And let Your light shine to and through us all. I come to you in the name of the Light of the World, my savior, Jesus. Amen.

**VOCABULARY**

*Wise Men or Magi* - a certain group of priests or advisers to rulers of eastern countries. They studied philosophy, the sciences, astrology, and astronomy. Daniel was such, but did not practice the wicked art of astrology or sorcery. (See Rupprecht, page 46)

*Frankincense* - a dry resin with a strong smell and white or yellowish color valued because it burns long with a sweet odor. Like incense today.

*Myrrh* - a scented gum from thickened sap of a low thorny tree which grows chiefly in Arabia. It was used for precious ointments, embalming, and perfume.

*Ramah* - a small town near Jerusalem, near the later city of Bethlehem.

*Gentiles* - all the non-Jewish people of the earth.

**OUTER AIM**

God led the wise men to Jesus.

**INNER AIM**

God reveals the Savior of all people.

**BACKGROUND**

(*Rupprecht Bible History References Vol. 2, pp. 45-54*)

This story stresses that the salvation which God prepared in Jesus was not only for His people Israel (the Jews) but also for the Gentiles (non-Jews). God revealed the birth of the Savior to these Gentile astronomers through a special star. He has also revealed this Jesus to us (Gentiles) through His Word. Below are notes on each verse of the account:

Matthew 1:1

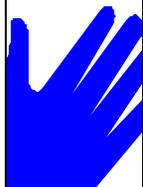
- ▶ The event took place probably within two years of Jesus' birth.
- ▶ We do not know the country where the wise men came from (the East), nor how many there were (there were three gifts).
- ▶ Jerusalem was the capital city and seemed a likely birthplace for a king.

v. 2:

- ▶ His Star: Numbers 24:17 speaks of the Star of Jacob.
- ▶ Evidently these wise men learned the scriptures from Jews (Daniel, others) who had been carried away captive to Babylon and perhaps beyond.
- ▶ The wise men traveled a long journey to find and worship this King.

v. 3:

- ▶ Herod was paranoid, constantly afraid that someone was going to take his throne and power away from him.
- ▶ To hear that a new king was born who might take his power deeply worried Herod and also people of Jerusalem, who knew Herod's ruthless reputation.
- ▶ Fear to lose what he treasured caused Herod and others to miss out on a far greater treasure.



v. 4 :

- ▶ Herod, “The Great,” did not know the scriptures well enough to know the answer and had to ask his advisers about the scriptures.

vs. 5-6:

- ▶ Herod's advisers searched the scriptures and found the answer.
- ▶ Micah 5:2(-5) names the birthplace of the Ruler King who would shepherd the wayward flock of Israel.

v. 7:

- ▶ In private he questioned the wise men from the east to learn important details

v. 8:

- ▶ Herod's words sounded good, but we find his heart plotted evil. So Herod in his selfishness misses a great opportunity to find salvation.

v. 9:

- ▶ The wise men heard the information and continued their search, but God still led them so they wouldn't make a mistake.
- ▶ Many have fruitlessly speculated about the star.
- ▶ What was it and how could it lead them to the very house where the Christ Child lived?
- ▶ God's miracles, always used with good purpose, humble us before His greatness.

v. 10:

- ▶ They were exceedingly joyful that God was leading them to their goal.

v. 11:

- ▶ God led them right to their goal.
- ▶ Notice that Jesus and family were now living in a house.
- ▶ The wise men were not too proud to fall down in humble worship before God, giving Him their hearts and their precious gifts.
- ▶ Gold would immediately prove useful to Mary and Joseph as they served the Lord by traveling to Egypt.
- ▶ The frankincense and myrrh also were expensive materials that could be sold, if not used.
- ▶ Note Isaiah's prophecy of these gifts (60:6).
- ▶ Many have seen symbolism in these gifts: frankincense of pure faith and prayers ascending to heaven, myrrh to be used to bury Jesus after His crucifixion, and gold for the exalted king.

v. 12:

- ▶ God again guided the wise men who willingly obeyed and served God as He protected Jesus from Herod.

v. 13:

- ▶ Jesus needed further protection.
- ▶ God also instructed Joseph through a dream to flee to Egypt because Herod, blinded by sin, would seek to destroy the innocent child.

v. 14:

- ▶ Without questioning the need for the long journey, Joseph immediately left in secret for the safety of Egypt.

v. 15:

- ▶ Details, yet God announced them over 500 years before through Hosea 11:1 that all might know their Savior when He was revealed. v. 16: although Herod tried to deceive the wise men and God, Herod got angry when the tables were turned.

- ▶ Misusing the information of the wise men, Herod's horrible, evil anger was thorough as he destroyed all the children two years or younger, not only in Bethlehem but all the surrounding areas as well.

vs. 17-18

- ▶ Although God knew about the evil that would come He did not cause it.
- ▶ His messenger, Jeremiah (31:15) warned of the great misery caused by the crime.
- ▶ Rachel, one of Jacob's wives, died at the site of Bethlehem giving birth to Benjamin.

vs. 19-20

- ▶ Herod died, (despite his attempts to remain on the throne) and God called for His Son through a dream to Joseph.
- ▶ The one who ordered the "search to destroy mission" against Jesus was dead, so the whole family could return to Israel.

v. 21:

- ▶ Again, Joseph obediently traveled at God's instruction to God's goal.

v. 22:

- ▶ Archelaus, Herod's son, was just as wicked and dangerous as his father.
- ▶ So God directed the family to the safety of Galilee.

v. 23:

- ▶ And yet God's plans were not thwarted by the schemes of men, rather they were fulfilled despite the wicked people of the world.
- ▶ This prophecy is more subtle and not actually a direct quotation.
- ▶ "The name Nazareth is derived from a Hebrew word meaning a branch or tender offshoot. Thus the Messiah is called in Isaiah 11:1" (Rupprecht. p.54)

## **STUDENT PRAYER**

O Lord, You used a star and Your Word to lead the wise men to worship before Jesus. You made known that Your Son is the Savior for all peoples. We thank and praise you for leading us also by Your Word to worship our Savior Jesus. Continue to enable Your Word to lead people to their Savior and to protect your Church from the attacks of all evil. Bless each of us with joyous, generous hearts, willing to give our gifts for Your work in the world. In the name of the Light of the World, our Savior Jesus, we pray. Amen

## **PRESENTATION**

How could people from a far country find the house where the Child Jesus was so that they could worship Him? God helped lead them, not only with a star, but with His Word, so they went right to Jesus.

{Some illustrations of the events might help present it (e.g the throne room of the wicked king Herod whom God continually thwarted; The wise men traveling far to then bow with their gifts before the Lord Jesus; The parents of Jesus carrying Him to and from Egypt.). God's hand is seen throughout, guiding the wise men to Jesus and protecting Jesus from Herod.}

Briefly review previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible. Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. When scripture records the story in more than one place, you may want to harmonize the accounts (including extra details found in each account.) Let the students know where they can find the additional details in the Bible.

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that make them think about the story and show that they understand the story

## **APPLICATIONS**

1. As God led the wise men to Jesus, so God has led us to find Jesus. He uses different ways to lead us to Jesus but always the same means or tool does the work - God's Word. Where in the story did God use His Word to point people to Jesus? (God's Word told about the star, locations, and events in connection with Jesus; other people shared His Word). We seldom have a star guiding us to find Jesus; but, parents, family, friends, personal study, teachers, pastors, and others bring God's Word to us, revealing where we may find Jesus to worship Him.
2. We also can help others find Jesus in God's Word and show them that Jesus is everyone's Savior. We can even help people far away, across the world, find Jesus when we send them Bibles or missionaries to carry God's Word to them.
3. With joy in their hearts, the wise men gave of their best! They gave expensive gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Giving any gift to God is to be done with joy and love for our Savior and then no gift is too great or too small when given in faith. Some have said that we should give to our Lord the "gold" of faith, the "frankincense" of prayer, and the "myrrh" of repentance.

## **PASSAGES**

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

### Lower

Psalms 37:5 - Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

Isaiah 49:6 - Indeed He says, "I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth."

### Middle any of the above and...

Isaiah 60:2-3 - For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

### Upper any of the above and...

Micah 5:2 - But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.

Psalms 2:2-4 - The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision.

## **HYMN CHOICES**

"Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing" (TLH 129 1-3)

"As with Gladness Men of Old" (TLH 127 any or all)

"O Jesus, King of Glory" (TLH 130 1-4,6)

# The Wise Men and Flight to Egypt

Matthew 2:1-23

## The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

What gift would you have given Baby Jesus if you could have visited the newborn King? Today we will hear about some wise men who came from very far away to praise the Savior, Jesus, and to bring Him gifts. Those costly gifts would also help Joseph, Mary and Jesus travel and live in far away Egypt. Why did they go to Egypt? Listen and you will learn.

After Jesus had been born, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the King of the Jews who was born? We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

Herod, the king of Judea, did not like hearing this. Would this King take over his job and become king? Herod called together people who knew the Bible and asked them to find where the Christ was to be born.

The Bible, in the book of Micah, told them that Jesus was to be born in Bethlehem.

Herod secretly found out when the wise men had seen the star and he told them to go to Bethlehem where they would find the Child. Herod lied to the wise men and said, "Go and find the Child and come back and tell me where He is so that I can go and worship Him also."

The wise men left, following the star they had seen in the East. The star stopped over the place where Jesus was living. The wise men were very happy to see the star and follow it!

They came to the house where Jesus was now living and they fell down before the Savior and worshiped Him. They also gave Him expensive gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

God sent a dream to warn the wise men not to go back to King Herod. The wise men went home a different way.

An angel also came to Joseph in a

dream and said, "Get up, take the young Child and Mary and go to Egypt and stay there until you are told to return. King Herod is going to try to find Jesus to kill Him." Joseph, Mary and Jesus left that night to go to Egypt.

When King Herod realized the wise men were not coming back to tell him where Jesus was living, he was very angry. Herod ordered that all baby boys in Bethlehem who were two years old and younger should be killed. It was good that Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to Egypt.

After King Herod died, an angel told Joseph it was safe to go back home. The family moved to Nazareth, just as it is told in the Bible.

**The wise men came to worship Jesus, their Savior.**

**We worship our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

## Passage

"Put your trust in the Lord." Psalm 4:5

## Hymn & Prayer - TLH 127 v. 1

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led by Thee. Amen



**Classroom Activity** - Have the children act out the lesson. Make sure you don't necessarily have 3 wise men. Have the wise men visit Baby Jesus in a house (not a stable). You could also use nativity set pieces and review the birth of Jesus also.

Characters Needed:

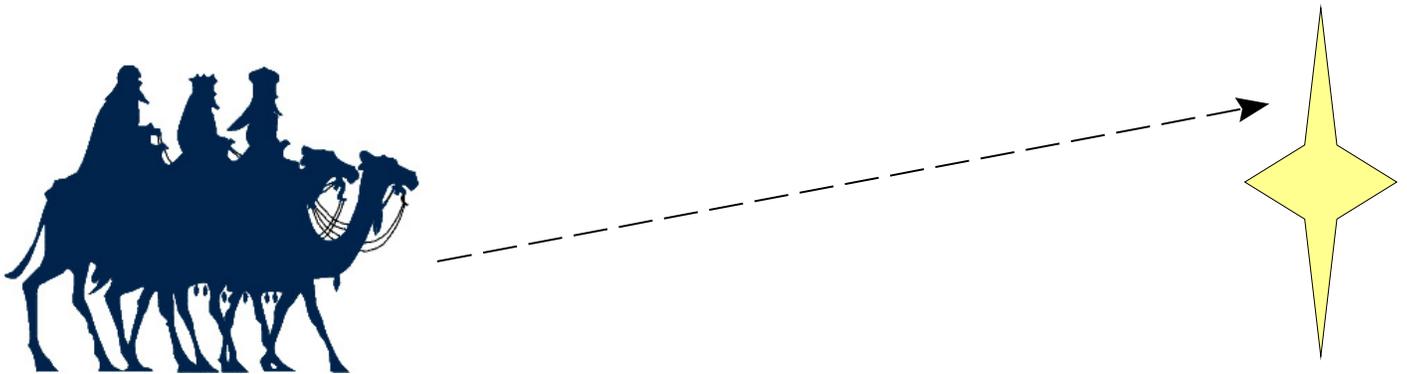
- Joseph
- Mary
- Wise men (any number)
- King Herod
- Angel

Props Needed:

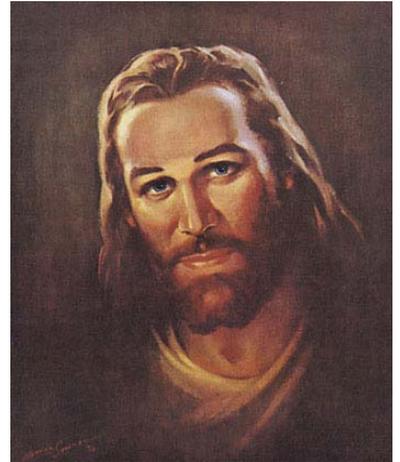
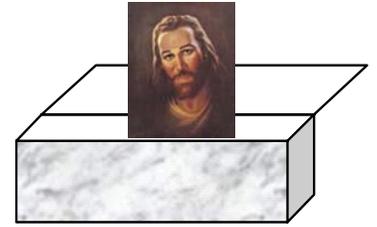
- Baby Jesus (doll)
- gifts - gold, frankincense, myrrh
- Bible

House area & Egypt

**Classroom Activity** - Have the children trace the path from the Wise men to the star and Mary, Jesus and Joseph to Egypt.



**Classroom Art Activity - Treasure Box** The wise men brought precious gifts for Jesus. What is our greatest treasure? Help the children decorate the treasure box and then assemble it. You may wish to glue the picture of Jesus to the inside bottom or stick a Jesus sticker on the inside. If you have a small class you may wish to purchase small boxes to decorate with gems, buttons, ribbon, etc.





# The Wise Men and Flight to Egypt

Matthew 2:1-23



## The Story

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After King Herod died, an angel told Joseph it was safe to go back home. The family moved to Nazareth, just as it is told in the Bible.

**Activity One** - Use the words in the box to complete the sentences.

gifts      Egypt      wise men      Jesus      star      safe

1. King Herod heard about J\_\_\_\_\_ being born.
2. He told the W\_\_\_\_\_ m\_\_\_\_\_ to find the baby Jesus.
3. The wise men followed God's special st\_\_\_\_\_ to Bethlehem.
4. When they found Jesus they worshiped Him and gave Him g\_\_\_\_\_.
5. King Herod wanted to hurt Jesus but God kept Him S\_\_\_\_\_.
6. Joseph took Mary and Jesus to live in E\_\_\_\_\_ until God told them they could move home.

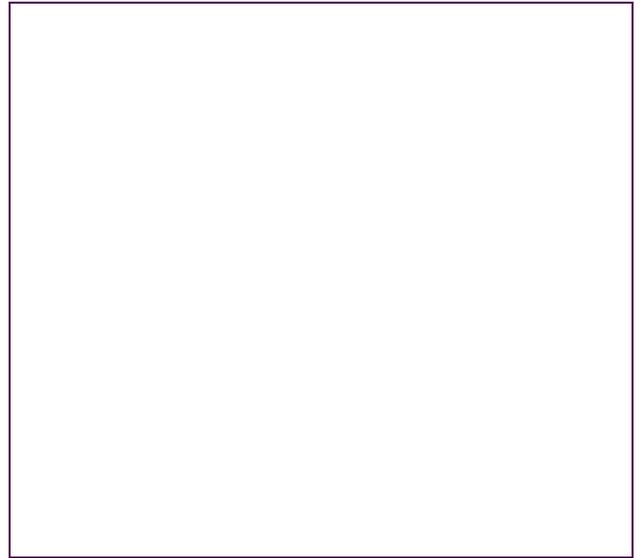
**Passage**

**"Put your trust in the Lord." Psalm 4:5**

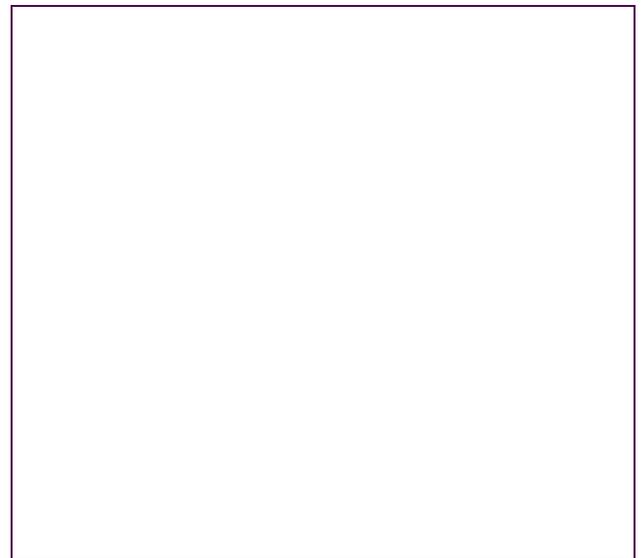
**Activity Two** The wise men brought precious gifts for Jesus. What are some gifts you can give Jesus? Draw pictures of those gifts in the boxes. Have your teacher help you write the name of the picture below its box.



Gift: \_\_\_\_\_



Gift: \_\_\_\_\_



Gift: \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,  
Please help me to be a bright light for You so other people can learn about how much You love them. Amen.

# The Wise Men and Flight to Egypt

Matthew 2:1-23



## The Story

What gift would you give Baby Jesus if you could have visited the newborn King? Today we will hear about some wise men who came from very far away to praise the Savior, Jesus, and to bring Him gifts. Those costly gifts would also help Joseph, Mary and Jesus travel and live in far away Egypt. Why did they go to Egypt? Listen and you will learn.

After Jesus had been born, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the King of the Jews who was born? We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

Herod the king did not like to hear this. Would this King take over his job? Herod called the people who knew the Bible together and asked them to find where the Christ was to be born.

The Bible in Micah told them that Jesus was to be born in Bethlehem.

Herod secretly found out when the wise men had seen the star and he told them to go to Bethlehem where they would find the Child. Herod lied to the wise men and said, "Go and find the Child and come back and tell me where He is so that I can go and worship Him also."

The wise men left and the star which they had seen in the East went ahead of them and stopped over the place where Jesus was

living. The wise men were very happy to see the star and follow it!

They came to the house where Jesus was now living and they fell down before the Savior and worshiped Him. They also gave Him expensive gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

God sent a dream to warn the wise men not to go back to tell King Herod where Jesus was living. They went home a different way.

An angel also came to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the young Child and Mary and go to Egypt and stay there until you are told to return. King Herod is going to try to find Jesus to kill Him." Joseph, Mary and Jesus left right away at night to go to Egypt.

King Herod also realized the wise men were not going to come back to tell him where Jesus was living. He had all baby boys who were two years old and younger put to death.

After King Herod died an angel told Joseph it was safe to go back home. They moved to Nazareth, just as it told in the Bible.

**God led the wise men to Jesus.**

**Activity One** - Use the words in the box to help you answer the riddles about today's story.

King Herod	wise men	Egypt	house	Nazareth
Jesus	gifts	star	killed	Bethlehem

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I shone brightly in the sky.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ We came to see the King of the Jews.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ I did not want another king besides me.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I am the Savior.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The wise men found Jesus in this town.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and His family were staying in this.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The wise men gave these to Jesus.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ This is what King Herod did to all the baby boys.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ This is where Joseph took Jesus for safety.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ This is where Jesus went at the end of the lesson.

**Activity Two** - The wise men followed God's special star to find Jesus. How can we help lead others to find Jesus? Write your ideas by the star.



**Passage** - God tells us in His Word to...

“Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.” Psalm 37:5

What are some ways you trust Him? Draw a picture showing one of them.

## God reveals the Savior of all people.

**Hymn Study** - TLH 127 v. 1-4

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led by Thee!

As with joyful steps they sped,  
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Thee whom heav'n and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercyseat!

As they offered gifts most rare  
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King!

Holy Jesus, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,  
You are so special to us. Please help us shine for You and to trust in You always.  
Amen.

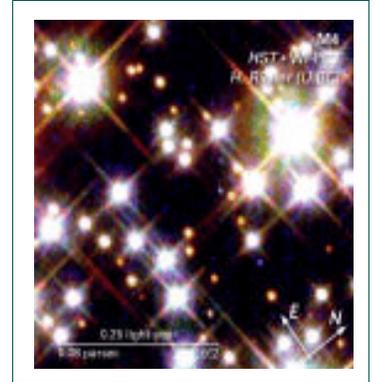
# The Wise Men and Flight to Egypt

Matthew 2:1-23

When people look at the stars they probably think of many different things.

What do you think of?

Many people allow the stars to control their lives. How?



## Prayer

Dear Lord,

The stars are a very beautiful part of Your creation. You placed a special star in the sky to guide the wise men. As we learn about the effects of that star, help us to be filled with awe at the working of Your plan for the salvation of the world. Amen.

## The Story - Matthew 2:1-23

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, {2} saying, "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."

{3} When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. {4} And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

{5} So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written

by the prophet: {6} 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

{7} Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. {8} And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

{9} When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went



before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

{10} When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. {11} And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

{12} Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

{13} Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

{14} When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, {15} and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

{16} Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent

forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

{17} Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: {18} "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more."

{19} But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, {20} saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

{21} Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. {22} But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

{23} And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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## **Outer Aim - God led the wise men to Jesus.**

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**What the Story Tells Us** - Fill in the blanks to complete these sentences about the story.

1. The wise men went to \_\_\_\_\_ looking for Jesus.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was afraid this new King would take away his kingdom.

3. His scribes found in the \_\_\_\_\_ the answer of where the King was to be born.
4. Herod told the wise men that he wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ the child.
5. The star led them to the town of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. When the wise men had worshiped Jesus they gave Him \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. God kept Jesus safe by telling the wise men in a \_\_\_\_\_ to go home by a different way.
8. This angered \_\_\_\_\_ and he commanded that all male babies should be \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Jesus was kept safe because God had warned \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_.
10. After \_\_\_\_\_ was dead God sent His \_\_\_\_\_ again to Joseph in a dream.
11. Joseph moved Mary and Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_.

### **What God's Word Tells Us** - How do these passages parallel today's story?

Isaiah 60:2-3 - For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Micah 5:2 - But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.

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**Inner Aim** - God reveals the Savior of all people.

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## Passages

"Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass."  
Psalm 37:5

Isaiah 49:6 - Indeed He says, "I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be my salvation to the ends of the earth."

## Hymn Study - TLH 127

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led by Thee!

As they offered gifts most rare  
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy.  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King!

As with joyful steps they sped,  
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Thee whom heav'n and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercyseat!

Holy Jesus, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright need they no created light;  
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown, Thou its Sun which goes not down.  
There forever may we sing alleluias to our King!

Which verses specifically apply to today's lesson?  
How can we learn from the wise men's actions?

**Prayer** - Write a prayer that focuses on the thoughts of today's lesson.

# The Wise Men and Flight to Egypt

Matthew 2:1-23

If you were given a compass and a map, would you be able to find an address in your town?

How about an address in a state miles away?

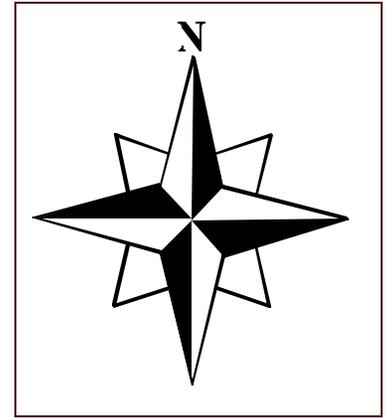
Suppose you were given a compass and a piece of paper that held all of the information you need to find a person, but when you look at the paper all you see is the word baby.

Would you be able to complete the assignment by finding this specific child?

What kind of questions would you ask to narrow down your search?

Where would you look for the answers?

How about the other side of the story - How would you feel being a parent of a child that: 1) strange people from a different country spent months (maybe even years) to find, and 2) when they arrived gave the child precious and expensive gifts?



## Prayer

Dear God,

You have given us the faith to believe in You. Please help us not to take our faith for granted. As we study today about the lengths to which the wise men went in order to worship Your Son, strengthen our faith, and make us truly thankful for the gifts You have given each of us. Amen.

## The Story - Matthew 2:1-23

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, {2} saying, "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."

{3} When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. {4} And when he had gathered all the

chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

{5} So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: {6} 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

{7} Then Herod, when he had



secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared.

{8} And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

{9} When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

{10} When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. {11} And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

{12} Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

{13} Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

{14} When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, {15} and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord

through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

{16} Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

{17} Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

{18} "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more."

{19} But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, {20} saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

{21} Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. {22} But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

{23} And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

**Review** - Read the following statements. If they are correct write **CORRECT** in the blank. If they are incorrect cross out the incorrect word and **WRITE THE CORRECT WORD** in the blank.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The wisemen came from Egypt.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ They first looked for Jesus in Nazareth.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Herod was paranoid at the news of this new king.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Herod's scribes found their answer from the writings of the prophet Jeremiah.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Herod told the wisemen that he wanted to kill Jesus.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The star led the wisemen to Jerusalem.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The wisemen presented gifts of gold, cloth, and myrrh.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The wisemen immediately told Herod where Jesus was.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ God told Joseph through a dream to go to Egypt.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Herod ordered that all male children age two and younger be put to death.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ After Herod's death Joseph returned with Mary and Jesus to Jerusalem.

### **Hymn Study**

Which verses of Hymn #130 best fit the thoughts of today's story?

What does verse six remind us of?

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## Outer Aim

God led the wisemen to Jesus.

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**Passage Study** - Look up the following passages. How do they apply to today's lesson?

- A. Psalm 2:2-4
- B. Isaiah 49:6
- C. Micah 5:2
- D. Isaiah 60:2-3
- E. John 5:39
- F. Numbers 24:17

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## Inner Aim

God reveals the Savior of all people.

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## Closing Prayer

Hail, Thou all inviting Savior!  
Gentiles now their offerings bring;  
In Thy temples seek Thy favor,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.  
May we, body, soul, and spirit,  
Live devoted to Thy praise,  
Glorious realms of bliss inherit,  
Grateful anthems ever raise. Amen.