

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:

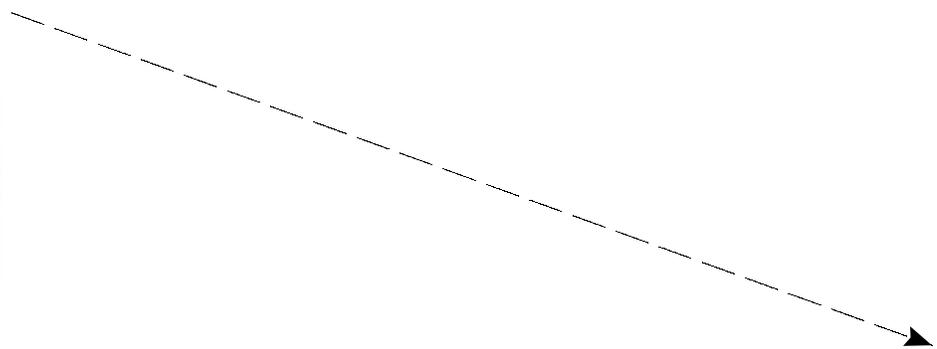
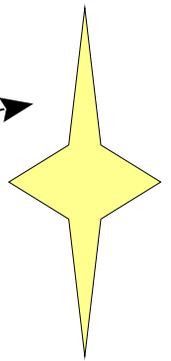
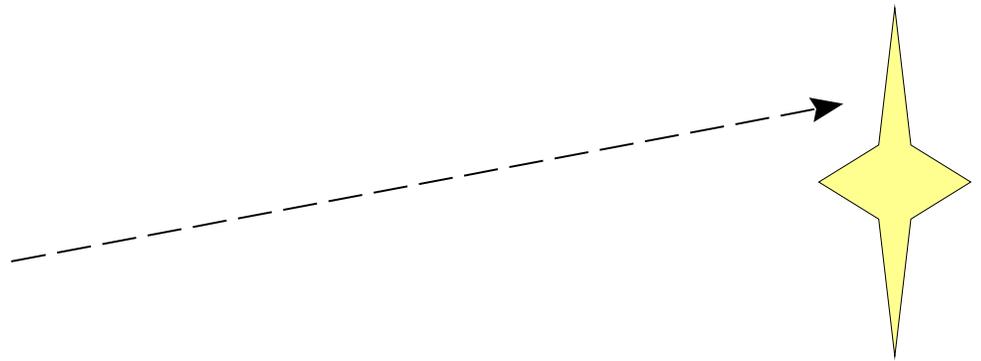
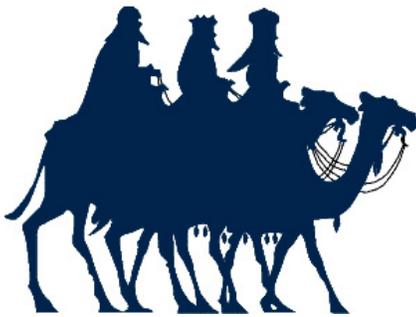
- Joseph
- Mary
- Wise men (any number)
- King Herod
- Angel

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.

