



DECEMBER 29, 2024

WISE MEN VISITED JESUS

MATTHEW 2

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is our Savior and King.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.

MEMORY VERSE

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son... Galatians 4:4

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The wise men were magi. Their study of the stars led them to Judea to find and worship Jesus, the newborn King. Before they found Jesus, though, the wise men met King Herod. God had promised the Jewish people a new king — one who would save them from their enemies.

King Herod was not that king. Imagine how he felt when he heard about a new king in town.

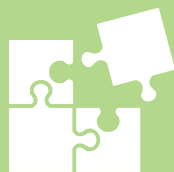
The wise men asked him, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?” (Matthew 2:2) The wise men unintentionally challenged Herod’s reign. Not only was Herod not a full Jew, but he also wasn’t a descendant of King David. Herod was deeply disturbed by the news that this child had the birthright of being king.

As Herod’s fury grew, he gathered his chief priests and scribes to determine where Jesus had been born. Then he lied to the wise men, saying, “When you find him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship him.” (Matthew 2:8) What deceitfulness! The truth was, Herod didn’t want to worship Jesus at all; he wanted to kill him.

The wise men continued on their journey and found Jesus. Jesus may have been about two years old when the magi found Him and worshiped Him. The Bible does not say how many magi worshiped Jesus, although three are often depicted because of their three gifts — gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God warned the wise men in a dream to avoid Herod, so they returned home by another route.

The wise men came to worship Jesus as King. Jesus is the King who will rule forever, as God promised to King David in 2 Samuel 7. Help the children you teach this week realize that Jesus is the true King who is worthy of all our worship.

OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities

WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

ACTIVITY: SING A SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “When the Saints Go Marching In”:

“But when the fullness,
But when the fullness,
But when the fullness of time had come,
God sent forth His Son.
Galatians 4:4.”

CONNECT THE DOTS



Our memory verse phrase says, “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son.” We were told about the coming birth of the Savior by Isaiah and Micah. The wise men discovered the prophecies about the Savior were true when they saw Jesus. Our memory verse — Galatians 4:4 — is fulfilled in the birth of Jesus!

CRAFT: WISE MEN

Supplies: paper cutouts, markers/crayons, glue

Using the provided supplies and the picture to the left, help children assemble their wise men craft.

As children work, tell or retell the Bible story, and remind children the wise men had been waiting for a special king to be born. The wise men followed a star to get to Jesus. They worshiped Jesus and gave him gifts. Jesus was born to be our Savior and King.





WISE MEN VISITED JESUS

Long ago, God promised to send a king to save His people from their enemies. The people waited a long time for their king, and the time had finally come! God's Son, Jesus, was born in Bethlehem.

At this time, Herod was the king over the land of Judea. Was Herod the king God promised? No! Herod was a bad king.

Some wise men saw a star in the sky. It was a sign that Jesus had been born, so the wise men went to find Jesus. They came to King Herod. "Where is the king of the Jews?" they asked. "We saw a star in the east. We want to worship the new king."

King Herod was very angry. A new king? Herod was king! He asked the priests and scribes, "Where is this king supposed to be born?"

"In Bethlehem, just as the prophet said," his priests and scribes replied.

Herod spoke to the wise men in secret. "Go find this child. When you find Him, come tell me where He is so I can worship Him as king, too." But Herod was lying. Herod didn't want to worship the new king; he wanted to kill Him!

The wise men followed the star to Jesus. They went into the house where Jesus was with His mother, Mary. The wise men fell to their knees and worshiped Jesus. Then they gave Jesus three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

When it was time for the wise men to go home, God warned them in a dream not to tell Herod where Jesus was. So, they took a different way home. After the wise men were gone, an angel appeared to Mary's husband, Joseph, in a dream. The angel said, "Take Jesus and Mary to Egypt and stay there. King Herod is looking for Jesus and wants to kill Him!"

In the middle of the night, Joseph got up and took Mary and Jesus to Egypt where they would be safe. A while later, after Herod had died, an angel spoke to Joseph again in a dream. "Take Jesus and Mary to the land of Israel, because King Herod is dead now." Joseph did what the angel said. He got up and took Mary and Jesus to Israel.

CHRIST CONNECTION

The wise men came to worship Jesus as king. God promised to send a King who would be King forever. Jesus is the King who will always be King. **Jesus is our Savior and King,** and He deserves all our worship.

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning

SNACK & DISCUSSION

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. How did the wise men know God's King had been born?
2. What lie did King Herod tell the wise men?
3. What gifts did the wise men give to Jesus?
4. Why was Jesus born? *Jesus was born to rescue us.*

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant
2. Spot sweep if needed
3. Return toys to closet, close door
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room
5. Return storage cubes to Room 108

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!