



# 3<sup>rd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup>

December 15-16, 2012

DATE

Wise Men Worship

LESSON TITLE

Matthew 2

WHERE TO FIND IT

The wise men worshiped—and we can too!

MAIN POINT

## schedule

Play games and hang out (10 minutes)  
Large group (30 minutes)  
Small group (20 minutes)  
Video/song review (10 minutes)

## tips

When small group ends, transition your kids into a game together. Play Christmas Pictionary, Hangman, or Charades.

## check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to worship Jesus this Christmas, just like the wise men.

## large group heads up

We're talking about the story of how the wise men worshiped Jesus, and how we can worship Jesus this Christmas.



## instructions

**Goal:** to remind kids to worship Jesus this Christmas

**Why?** Jesus' birth is so miraculous and loving, the only response of those who believed he was the promised King was to worship him

**Tip:** It might be some kids' first day in Kids' Club. As they create their Christmas nativity scene, talk about the whole story and how miraculous it is. It will be a great reminder for "regulars," too!

## QUESTIONS

### CONNECT

1. What's one way *you* want to worship God and Jesus this Christmas?

### REVIEW

2. Why do you think the wise men were willing to travel all that way? (they believed Jesus was the promised king, the rescuer)
3. Why did Herod hate Jesus so much? (he was the king and when he didn't want a *new* king to be born)
4. How did God keep Jesus safe from Herod? (dreams to the wise men and Joseph)

### RELATE

5. Would you have been scared if you found out Herod wanted to kill the king you were going to worship? (Assure kids that God was—and is—the protector!)
6. Would *you* have been willing to travel all that way to worship the king? Why or why not?

## ACTIVITY

The Christmas story shows us God's GREAT love for us and makes us want to worship him! God sent his own son to earth as a baby because he loves us. Then tons of crazy events surrounded Jesus' birth and remind us how powerful and amazing God is. And all sorts of people—lowly shepherds and rich, wise men—wanted to worship Jesus.

Today, we're going to ***make a picture*** of the Christmas story. If we think about God's great love and power, hopefully it'll remind US to worship Jesus this season too!

You can use any of these ***supplies*** to create a reminder of the Christmas story. Focus on one part of the Christmas story—or the whole thing—whatever will help you most remember to worship!

*\*Give kids supplies and let them create. When all small groups are finished with discussion, turn on worship music in the background.*

## QUESTIONS

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## ACTIVITY



## special notes

Watch the 2<sup>nd</sup> video clip ahead of time <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qxqCEqf0N0>. It gets long, but your commentary is important to convey the lengthy, uncomfortable journey the wise men were willing to undergo to worship Jesus!

## presenter tips

Often, we treat this story as if there were *three* wise men. We're not using that number today. If kids ask, tell them we don't know how many wise men there were: all we know is that there were three gifts presented to Jesus.

\*Other names for wise men that kids may hear: kings, magi

## script

*\*First slide plays Christmas music as kids enter to set a festive tone.*

### WELCOME

As you guys know, it's Christmas! And to get into the Christmas spirit, we're going to play a couple more rounds of "Christmas Guess-It"! Remember, I show you a tiny picture. You tell me what the bigger picture is. And JUMP up as soon as you know it. Ready? (**Show first image—let kids respond. You can have all kids yell it out or choose one kid to answer—use the system that would work best in your environment. There's one more. Answers: *stocking, ornament***)

### REVIEW

Great job! Now have a seat. Let's see if anybody can remember some of the crazy and wonderful miracles surrounding Jesus' birth. (Change slide) Take a look—what are some of the things that surprised you most? (Let kids respond. *Reminder of the events: 1. An angel announced he was coming, 2. John the Baptist jumped in his mom's belly, 3. angels appeared to shepherds, 4. a star appeared, 5. wise men began following the star, 6. God kept Jesus safe, 7. Joseph had dreams*)

### WISE MEN

Today, we're going to talk about what happened when the star appeared when Jesus was born. Now, we don't know if it was a regular star or a planet...or what. Usually, in pictures, it looks like a **HUGE star (show picture)**. What we DO know is that whatever it was, some people started following it. Does anybody remember who followed the star? (Let kids respond.)

Yes, some wise men. They were smart men who looked like kings. Sometimes we call them the magi. They were willing to take quite a journey to get to baby Jesus. As you watch, try to figure out WHY the wise men were looking for Jesus. Let's check it out:





## script continued

### **Video: The Christmas Story-Three Wise Men**

So why did the wise men take a journey to see baby Jesus? (Let kids respond.) Yes, they wanted to worship him. Who did they stop to ask for help? (Let kids respond.) ...Yep, Herod. He was the King when Jesus was born! Did Herod like Jesus? (Let kids respond.) No, because Herod didn't want a new king to be born!

### **HEROD'S PLAN**

In fact, the movie was pretty short so it couldn't include all the details, but when the wise men told Herod they wanted to find Jesus to worship him, Herod said:

***SLIDE: He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."***

Now, do you think Herod wanted to worship Jesus?? (Let kids respond.) No WAY! Remember, worship is telling Jesus how great he is and how much we love him...and Herod didn't love Jesus. In fact, Herod wanted to KILL Jesus. So after the wise men found Jesus, did they go back to Herod? (Let kids respond.) NO! They were warned in a dream not to go back.

And it gets worse: Later on, when Herod realized the wise men didn't tell him where to find Jesus, he was so mad that he actually ordered that all the boys in Bethlehem under age two had to be *killed*. But guess what? Jesus didn't live in Bethlehem anymore. Remember, God had sent an angel to Joseph in a dream to tell him to move his family.

### **THE JOURNEY TO WORSHIP**

But BEFORE Jesus moved, the wise men were able to find him in Bethlehem and worship him. Now, the trip from Herod's to Bethlehem was a REALLY long way and a really hard journey. We're going to watch another clip to get a picture of what it was like. As we watch, see if you can figure out HOW the wise men worshiped—how they said "I love you" to Jesus.

***Video: The Wise Men Seek Jesus*** (as the video plays, add commentary about the lengthiness, difficulty of the journey. Comment on the dryness, dustiness, snow and cold, painfulness on their feet, how bored they might have become, the length, etc.)

Does anybody know how the wise men worshiped Jesus? (Let kids respond.) Yes, they bowed and gave him gifts. The Bible says this:

***SLIDE: On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.***

Bowing is a way to show that we know Jesus is greater than we are. People often bow before kings and queens—and this was the GREATEST king ever, the King of Kings! And we give gifts to people we love, right? That's definitely a way to worship Jesus.



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### **OTHER WAYS TO WORSHIP**

How else can we worship Jesus? (Let kids respond.) Anything we do to say “I love you” is worship! And Jesus knows our hearts, so he knows WHY we do something and if it’s *really* out of love. One lady in the New Testament poured expensive perfume all over Jesus’ feet and dried it with her hair. That might sound silly to us, but Jesus knew that she was doing it to show her love.

Worship can be as simple as saying, “I love you, Jesus!” Or maybe talking to God through prayer or singing him songs, or making something special for Jesus. You could even go on a walk through the woods and tell him how beautiful his creation is! (*If time, share a personal example of how you worship.*) As we sing one last song to worship together, think about other ways YOU might like to say “I love you” to Jesus this Christmas season.

**Song: Oh Come All Ye Faithful**

### **PRAY**

Can somebody come up and pray for us today?



**script continued**

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# PREP needs



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## small group supplies

1. Blank sheets of paper
2. Crayons/markers (ones in room are fine, but need specifically for small group)
3. Colored pencils
4. Nativity stamps (1 set per small group—kids will NOT take them home): OT: IN-4/8330
5. Nativity stencils (1 set per small group—kids will NOT take them home): OT: IN-4/6975

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## large group supplies

Bible

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## a/v needs

1. Christmas Intro Slide:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AzA-MwsSmM> (play at least first 2:33 seconds—can loop it at that point or let it keep going)
2. Slides from this week's Christmas Guess It power point (in curriculum folder)
3. Image: God's Story screen shot (jpeg in curriculum folder)
4. Image: Star over Bethlehem (jpeg in curriculum folder)
5. Video: The Wise Men  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gxqCEqf0N0>
6. Slide: Matthew 2:8 (exact wording in script)
7. Video: The Wise Men Seek Jesus (0:30-4:37 only):  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhD8IG9VDVc>
8. Slide: Matthew 2:11 (exact wording in script)
9. Song: O Come All Ye Faithful

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## special room set-up

None

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## connect questions

Tell me about the wise men.  
How can we worship Jesus this Christmas?

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## parent page

We learned the story of the wise men and the journey they took to find Jesus and worship him. We talked about how we can worship Jesus this Christmas, too. Ask your child about it. And if you want, read the story together in Matthew 2.