



Kindergarten-2nd

January 4-5, 2014

DATE

The Wise Men

LESSON TITLE

Matthew 2:1-12

WHERE TO FIND IT

The magi traveled a long way to worship Jesus

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Have activities ready for kids when they arrive. Place coloring pages and crayons on the table. Help kids engage in other activities like playing with a truck or baby doll. Use this time to get to know the kids individually. Ask them questions like: "Who brings you to church?", "What's your favorite...", etc.

check-in/out

As kids leave, make sure they have a STAR sticker to wear. Remind them to tell their parents about the star in today's story.

large group heads up

Today is all about the wise men's long journey. They traveled a long, long way. But it was worth it: they got to see Jesus in person and worship him!



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

TRAIN FOR A WORKOUT

- One leader, choose a whistle.
- Line kids up and tell them to pretend they are going to walk for a long, long time, so they have to train.
- In small groups or in one large group, do some exercises. Lead kids in whatever way you feel comfortable, ask a kid to lead, or use these instructions:
 - 5 push-ups
 - 10 jumping jacks
 - 20 scissor steps
 - 5 toe touches
 - **Whatever exercises you choose, don't make it a competition out of consideration for kids who may not be as athletic. Just emphasize the fact that if we are going to walk for days, we need to train.*
- Sit in a circle/small circles and do stretches. You can reach for your toes, reach high, reach sideways, etc. Mention that you'll need to be nice and loose to walk for a very long way.
- As you or between exercises, CONNECT:
 - Ask kids to share the best and worst part of their week.
 - Ask kids to share the farthest they've ever walked or traveled and why they took that long journey.
 - Ask them if there's any reason they can think of that they'd be willing to walk for months (what if a friend lived far away or a sibling was in trouble, etc.)

Before you go, remind kids of the expectations you have for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) understand that the wise men traveled to worship Jesus and (2) recognize that we can worship Jesus

Why? It's important to recognize that worshiping Jesus is worth putting in some effort!

Tip: Make today fun! Kids will pretend they are magi. Decide ahead of time how you plan to structure your small group: make sure your team is on the same page so that the room is consistent.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY (Choose the questions necessary for your group's comprehension):

1. Who made a long trip in today's story?
2. How long did it take them?
3. Why did the magi travel so far?
4. What happened when they visited Herod?
5. What did they do when they got to Jesus?
6. How did God keep Jesus safe from Herod?
7. What does it mean to worship Jesus?
8. What are some ways we can worship Jesus? (Here are some hints to help kids think of things: pray, sing, dance, give gifts, bow, telling God why we love him, read the Bible, obey, help others, thank God for things while you are doing daily routines—like running water, indoor plumbing, food, etc.)

ACTIVITY: STARRY SKY

We're going to use the star as a reminder to worship Jesus.

- Lay the black sheet of paper down on the table or ground—or tape it to the bottom of the table and let kids crawl underneath.
- Have kids use chalk to create a night sky.
- Then place the ONE big star sticker somewhere in the sky.
- Tape the paper to the bottom of a table or the wall. Have kids lay under it or in front of it (decide as a team of volunteers how you want to run this activity).
- *If you can, turn on **the last slide of today's Keynote—nighttime sounds.***
- Ask kids to pretend they are magi sleeping under the stars.

- **Discuss or have kids discuss in partners:** How would the magi have felt while they were following that star? How would they have felt when they arrived? How would each kid have worshiped Jesus if they had been one of the magi? Would they have been willing to follow the star to see Jesus? Why or why not?
- **Storytelling practice:** Sit up and pretend you are sitting around a campfire telling stories. See if you can retell today's story, one detail at a time. Pass **the flashlight** from kid to kid. Whoever has the flashlight gets to add to the story.

***Afterwards, pray with the kids and ask God to help you all worship him like the magi this week.**

Extra time? Give each kid a blank sheet of paper. Have them write down ONE way they plan to worship God this week. Before they leave small group, give them a star sticker to wear. Remind kids to retell today's story to their parents!

special notes

Today's lesson is about the wise men who went to worship Jesus. They worshiped with gifts, but there are other ways to worship. Talk about what worship is today: telling God you love him and think he's great!

presenter tips

The story of the wise men could be a familiar one for some kids. Really play up the motivation behind their journey: their desire to WORSHIP Jesus!

script

Hi kids! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's so great to see you again! We haven't had Kids' Club for a couple weeks and I'm so glad to be back. You guys have been training for a Journey. So tell me: How do people feel when they walk or run really hard? How do you feel even after the small workout you just had? (Let kids respond.)

What are some reasons people work out or walk far? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, maybe they want to get somewhere or take a hike or be healthy.

Well, guess what? Check out this map: **(click to show a picture of the map)**. Today, we're going to talk about some guys who walked THIS far. And it would have taken them months and months to get there. To find out why they were willing to walk for months, let's step back and review what's been happening in God's story.

REVIEW THE CHRISTMAS STORY

So for Christmas, we've been talking about how God's family was waiting for hundreds of years for the king God promised. And finally, an angel told a woman named Mary that she had chosen to be the mother of Jesus the Rescuer.

A few months later, she and her husband Joseph took a *long* trip to Bethlehem. When they got there, Jesus was born outside with animals and had to put him in the animal's food dish. **(Show picture of Jesus in manger** and point out a few details in the picture—animals around, Joseph and Mary)

Then, some angels told some shepherds that the Rescuer had been born! **(Show picture of shepherds/angel)** The angels told the shepherds that Jesus was actually nearby...so the shepherds RAN to go see baby Jesus. They were so excited he was here!

THE STORY OF THE WISE MEN



script continued

Well, guess what else happened the night Jesus was born? Some of you may already know that a STAR appeared above Bethlehem. And some men called magi saw it. Can you guys say “magi”? (Let kids say: magi) Magi means wise men. They were the ones who had to go *allllllll* this way, across several countries, to find Jesus (click to go back to the map).

We know the star appeared right when Jesus was born, but to find out how long this journey took the magi—or wise men-- we’re actually going to check in with Shrimpola. See if you can figure out how long the magi traveled.

Ask Shrimpola: Magi

Wow, so how long do you think this trip took? (Let kids say: months or even years). That’s right! When the magi finally got to Jesus, he probably wasn’t a baby anymore, which means months or maybe even years had passed.

The magi asked the ruler, Herod, where Jesus was. They said: “Where is the new king? We saw his star and we want to worship him!”

Now, how do you think Herod felt when he found out a NEW king had been born? Was he happy about that? (Let kids respond.) NO WAY! He was MAD. He decided he would *kill* Jesus, but he didn’t tell the wise men. He said pretended he was excited about Jesus. He said: “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!” Do you think Herod really wanted to worship Jesus? (Let kids say: no). No way!

Then the magi went on their way and finally made it to where the star was. After *months* of traveling. What do you think you would do if you were at the end of a month-long journey? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, I’d probably want some water, maybe a shower, or a nap on a soft bed. But let’s watch a video to see what the wise men did.

Video: Wise Men

So what did the magi do when they got to Jesus? (Let kids say: worshiped, gave him gifts, bowed, etc.) That’s right. The Bible puts it like this:

SLIDE: Matthew 2:11 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Can you imagine wanting to see Jesus and worship him SO much that you traveled and walked over mountains and across deserts...for *months and months*? Would you be willing to walk for months to see Jesus? Just think about it in your head for a second.

And remember, after they saw him, they had to travel *all* that way back home. The really cool part of their return trip is that God warned the wise men in a dream NOT to tell Herod where



script continued

Jesus was. So Jesus was safe from the angry king.

WE CAN WORSHIP TOO

Like the wise men, we can worship Jesus. But we're lucky because we don't have to walk for months and months or deal with angry kings. We can simply stop right here and give Jesus praise. Anywhere we are, we can tell Jesus we love him or sing to him or dance for him or bow to him. We can even give him gifts by giving money we have to help the poor or giving our time by helping somebody we love.

WORSHIP

We'll talk more about how to worship Jesus in small groups. For now, remember that it must be pretty special to worship Jesus if the wise men traveled all that way to do it! So let's worship Jesus together now by singing and dancing for him. Everybody, stand up!

Song: Before I Go

Song: Dance Shout and Sing

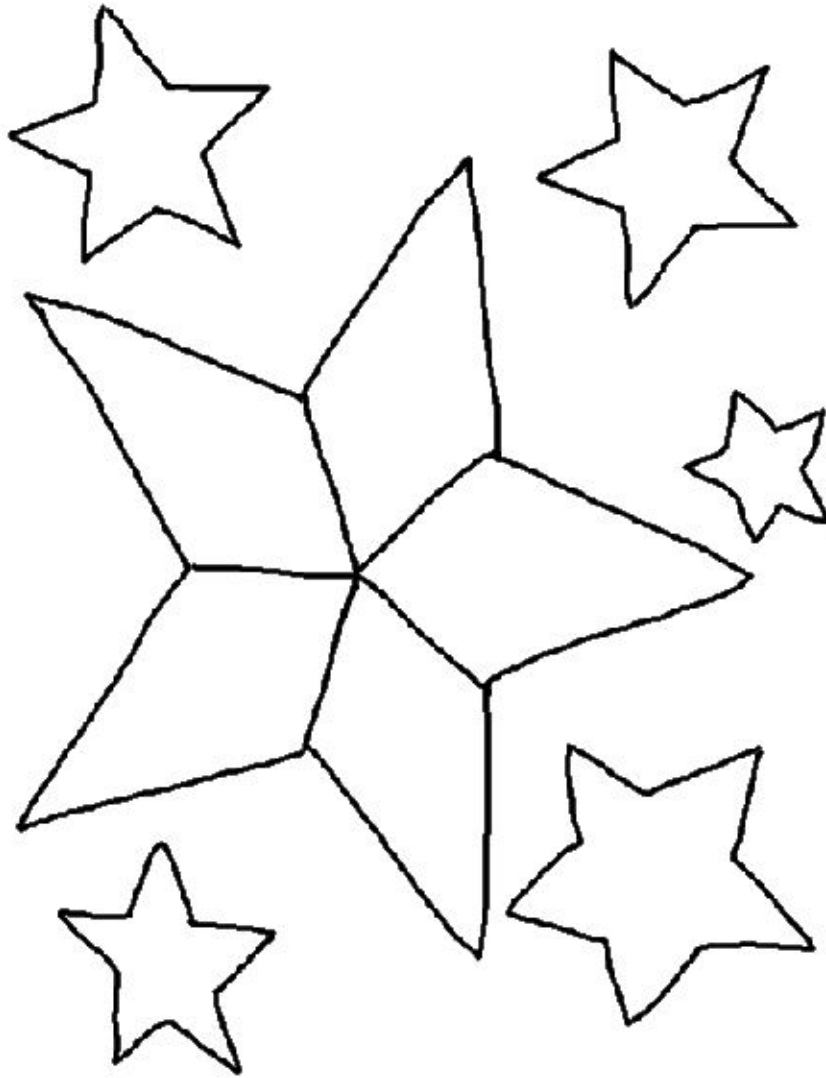
PRAY

Another way we can worship Jesus is by praying. Instead of one person praying for us today, everybody think in your heads of ONE reason you love Jesus. Tell him what it is (you can tell him silently; he hears everything we think!)



script continued

name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

One whistle per small group leader (new per service;
can use something like this: OT IN-20/22)

small group supplies

Bible	used each service)
Markers	1 star sticker per kid: OT IN-12/1975
Blank sheets of paper	1 gold star per room with sticky tack on back (can be re-used each service): OT: IN-70/1132
Large tear-off sheet of black paper	
Chalk	
1 flashlight per small group (can be small; can be re-	

large group supplies

a/v needs

1. Image: map of magi's journey
2. Image: Jesus in the manger
3. Image: Angels and shepherds
4. Image: map of magi's journey (again)
5. Video: Shrimpola: The Magi
6. Video: Wise Men (Public>KC>Videos and Media>Christmas)
7. SLIDE: Matthew 2:11 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
8. Song: Before I Go, I Stop
9. Song: Dance Shout and Sing
10. Small group slide: Please put this loop on the last slide for small groups to use:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVeIM6VjB7I>

connect questions

Tell me about the magi.
Why did the magi go on a long journey?

parent page

The magi (or wise men) probably had to travel for months and months to reach the star that marked Jesus' location. The trip was worth it though, because they got to see Jesus in person—and worship him! Ask your kid to tell you the story. Then read it together in Matthew 2:1-12.