



3PK

January 4-5, 2014

DATE

The Wise Men

LESSON TITLE

Matthew 2:1-12

WHERE TO FIND IT

The wise men worshiped Jesus!

MAIN POINT

schedule

First 10 minutes of the service hour:

Engage kids in cooperative play activities to help them connect to other kids

Next 5 minutes: Connect Time

Next 25 minutes: Large Group

Last 25 minutes: Snack and Small Group

Finish early? Repeat the activity! Kids this age learn through repetition. Or, check out the end of the activities section to find an idea for this week.

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 just so they could worship Jesus!



connect time

GOAL: *Connect time is all about engaging kids in a short, interactive game to prepare them for Large Group.*

- **Clean up! (10 minutes after the service start time, when you get the 5-minute warning from the presenter.)**
- Line Up
- While in line, tell them we're going to hear about some guys who took a long, LONG trip to see baby Jesus. Pretend to "travel," either standing in place or around the room. Imagine what it was like:
 - Take BIG steps
 - Jump over a creek
 - Pretend to climb a mountain
 - Sit down around a campfire, because this trip took days
 - Pretend to sleep outside
 - Start walking again
 - Tip toe across the sand
 - Repeat steps or add your own until it's time to start Large Group!

Before you go in, remember we have to be (Shhh!) quiet in Large Group. Then tip-toe in together!



instructions

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

Why? Worshiping Jesus is an exciting privilege.

Tip: Today has a lot of fun play-acting! Decide ahead of time if you'd rather do the long reenactment...or the short one.

small group

***Give kids a snack as you review the story.**

REVIEW THE STORY

1. Tell me about this picture (**hold picture of the Nativity**). (Let kids tell you what they know about Jesus' birth.)
2. After Jesus was born, angels told some people. Who were those people? (Hint: they were in fields taking care of sheep.)
3. What did the shepherds do when they found out Jesus was born? (Went and worshipped him)
4. What appeared in the sky when Jesus was born? (refer to **Nativity picture**; **star**)
5. Who followed the star to find Jesus? (magi; wise men)
6. What did the wise men do when they found Jesus? (worshipped Jesus; bowed, gave him gifts)
7. How can WE worship Jesus? (sing to him, pray to him, tell him we love him, dance for him, give him gifts, bow to him, etc.)

ACTIVITY: FOLLOW THE STAR

Lead them in acting out today's story. At this age, kids love dramatic play—and it helps them remember what happened. Choose the version that best fits your room.

Long version of the story (includes review):

1. Wait...and wait...and wait...then turn on some music and dance to celebrate that Jesus is here!
2. Pretend to be Mary and Joseph. Take a long journey, then stop and pretend you're in a loud, stinky place. Then dance and celebrate that Jesus is here!

(continue on the following page)

3. Have half the room be shepherds; half angels. The angels can yell, "Glory to God!" Then the shepherds who just got the good news can run in place to worship Jesus. Then everybody dance and celebrate that Jesus is here!
4. Hang **the star** somewhere in the room; take another long trip to find the star. Let each kid choose something in the room to "pack" and carry on the journey. (As you "travel", act tired and take crazy steps across mountains, down valleys, jumping over creeks, etc., like during Connect Time). Then bow, sing, and dance to worship Jesus! (play music for effect)

Shortened versions of the story (wise men only):

- Hang **the star** somewhere in the room; take another long trip to find the star. Let each kid choose something in the room to "pack" and carry on the journey. (As you "travel", act tired and take crazy steps across mountains, down valleys, jumping over creeks, etc., like during Connect Time). Then bow, sing, and dance to worship Jesus! (play music for effect)
- Play hide and seek with the star, so that kids pretend to be the wise men. Give kids turns to hide the star. Then bow, sing, and dance to worship Jesus! (play music for effect)
- Let kids take turns holding the star and leading the room in a parade as kids follow the star like the wise men. Then bow, sing, and dance to worship Jesus! (play music for effect)

***Pray with kids, thanking God that we can worship him!**

As kids leave, give them a STAR sticker to wear and remind them to tell their parents about the star in today's story.

Extra time? Play "I Spy": You can play this from your seats or walk around the room. Lead first, to show the kids how to play. Say, "I spy something with the color _____" and let the kids guess. Or say, "I spy something shaped like a _____" and let the kids guess. Let the kids come up with their own objects too. To mix things up, ask the kids to find something in the room with a certain color or shape and bring it to you. (Don't make it a contest to find an object first—just have fun seeing many examples of colors and shapes!)

LARGE group



special notes

There are two opportunities for you to get the kids up and moving today. Decide how you want to get your group kinesthetically involved in the story! Adapt the actions to best fit your personal style.

presenter tips

Welcome the kids to Kids' Club! Remember that many kids may be hanging in Kids' Club for the first time, so don't assume that everyone knows the routine.

script

Presenter: Hi Friends! Welcome to Kid's Club. I'm _____ and I'm really glad you're here today. Before we get started, I want you to meet my friend HOPS. She's going to remind us of the kind of choices we can make today in Kids' Club.

Video: HOPS 2 Obey Your Leaders (*about 1 minute*)

Wow, I can't wait to have some fun in Kids' Club today. Before we hear our story, can I see a big thumbs up from everybody who's ready to have some fun and hear a VERY special announcement? (Let kids respond.) Great job! Now I think we're ready to hear God's story.

REVIEW THE BEGINNING OF GOD'S STORY

Presenter: (Hold up the **Bible** for kids to see.) This is where we can read about God's story. Out of all the stories in the world, this story is the most important. It's God's Rescue plan.

Remember how God made the whole world and everything was good? The world was perfect! Give me a smile! (Let kids respond. Then change your tone.) But THEN, something bad happened. A snake tricked the first two people, Adam and Eve, into thinking they didn't need to trust or obey God. So Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and sadness and death came into the world... Show me your sad face. (Let kids respond.) This was *really* sad.

But even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God...God loved them anyway! And he planned a great rescue so that Adam and Eve—and you and me—can be close to God again. We've been talking about that KING and Rescuer. His name is....(Let kids say: Jesus!) Yes, Jesus!

REVIEW THE CHRISTMAS STORY

(Hold **suitcase** for kids to see.) We talked about how Mary and Joseph went on a *long* trip where they had to walk a *long* way. And at the end of that *long* trip, Mary had the baby Jesus outside with animals and had to put him in the animal's dinner bowl. (Show picture of Jesus in



script continued

manger and point out a few details in the picture—animals around, Joseph and Mary, etc.)

Then, some angels told some shepherds—people that take care of sheep—that the Rescuer had been born! (**Show picture of shepherds/angel.**) The shepherds were pretty surprised when the angels showed up! The angels told the shepherds that Jesus was nearby...so they RAN to go see baby Jesus. Can you guys pretend to run in place? (Let kids pretend—standing or sitting, your choice—to run in place).

The shepherds got to go and see Jesus with their own eyes. And do you know what they did when they saw Jesus? They WORSHIPPED Jesus. Can you guys say “worship”? (Let kids say: worship). That means they *adored* him. They might have bowed down in front of him, like this (bow down as you finish): and prayed to him. Maybe they told him how wonderful he was and how happy they were that he’s here!

THE STORY OF THE WISE MEN

(Stand up and continue.) Well, guess what else happened that night? Some other people got to find out about Jesus’ birth. See, when Jesus was born, a STAR appeared (**show the picture of the nativity again**; point out the star). And some men called magi saw it. Can you guys say “magi”? (Let kids say: magi.) Magi means wise men.

When the magi saw the star, they wanted to find the Rescuer, the baby king! But they had to take a long, long trip to see Jesus. Let’s pretend to take a long, long trip. Imagine you’ve been walking for days and are SO tired. (Pick up the suitcase and lead kids in walking in place or walking around the room.) Whew! You guys can have a seat.

The wise men finally made it. We’re going to watch a video about what the wise men did when they found Jesus. As you watch, see if you can figure out what it is! (*You can give kids a hint to remember what the shepherds did!*)

Video: The Wise Men (approx. 1 minute)

Wow, when the wise men found Jesus, they did what the shepherds did! They worshipped Jesus. They bowed down (demonstrate) like the shepherds and gave Jesus gifts even though they had never met him. They wanted to show Jesus they LOVE him! Usually, we only give gifts to people we love.

WE CAN WORSHIP, TOO

You guys know what’s really cool about this story? God LOVED it when the shepherds and wise men worshipped him. And he loves it when WE worship him. We can worship him like the wise men, by bowing or giving gifts.

But there are LOTS of ways to worship and show Jesus we love him. We can say nice things like, “I love you, Jesus!” Let’s do that together. (Let kids say: I love you Jesus.) Hey, we just worshiped God! We can tell him he’s great by saying, “Jesus, you’re the king!” (Lead kids in saying: Jesus, you’re the king!) We just worshiped him again!



script continued

When we talk to God, it's called praying. Let's pray together now!

Pray: Hi God! Thanks for Jesus, the king! We love you so much! Help us to worship you.
Aaaa-men!

WORSHIP

Another way to worship Jesus is to sing songs to him. Let's worship him together!

Song: Jesus Loves Me

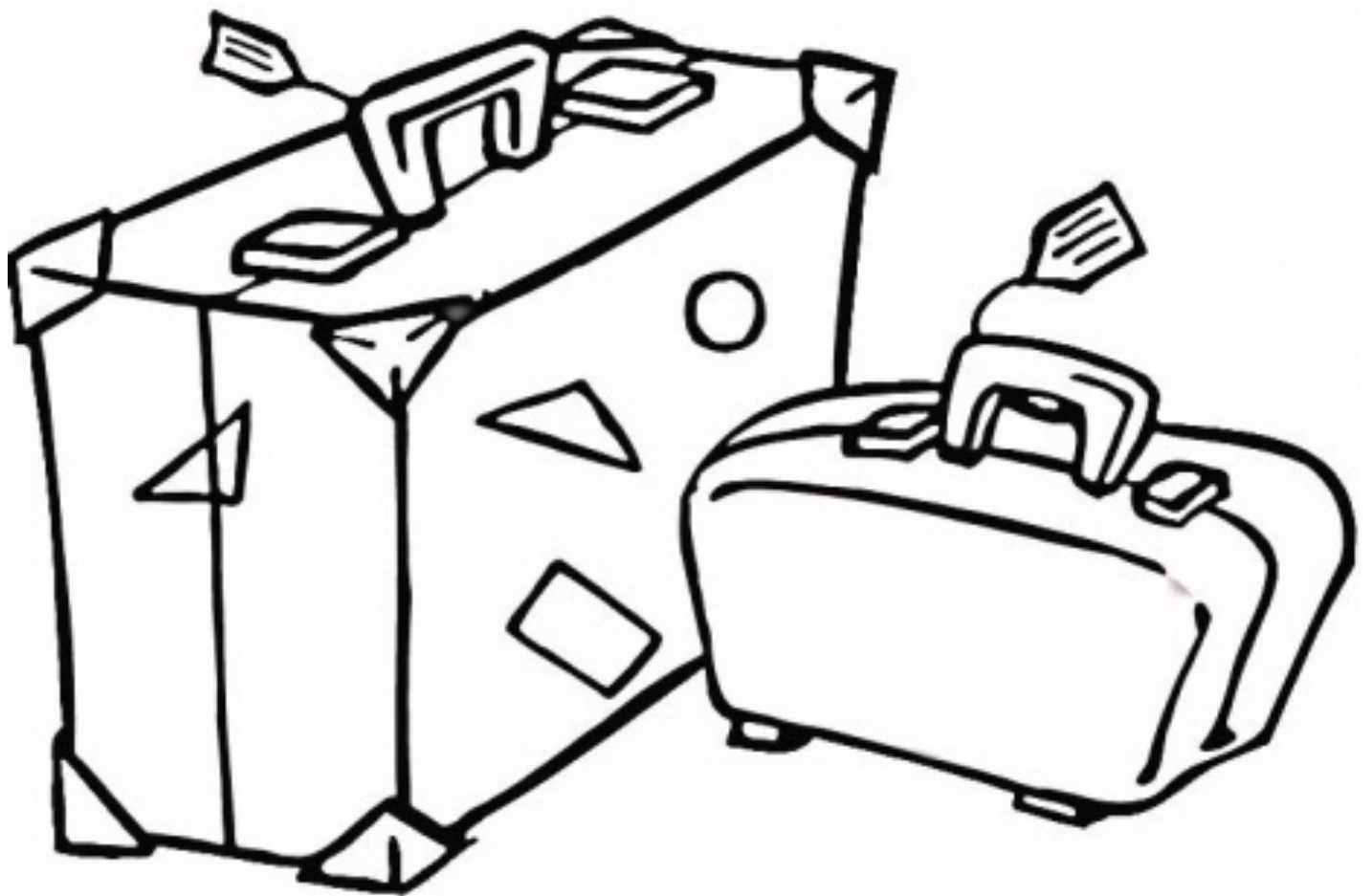
Song: King of the Jungle

Dismiss kids to small groups. (Be creative as you dismiss them. Ask them to come give you a high five first, or maybe tiptoe or hop--like Hops--to their groups.)



script continued

name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

Pretend to travel - No supplies needed

small group supplies

Coloring Page: Luggage

Picture of the nativity

1 star sticker per kid: OT IN-12/1975

1 gold star per room (can be re-used per service):

OT: IN-70/1132

String and tape to hang the star

large group supplies

Bible

Suitcase

a/v needs

1. Video: HOPS 2 Obey Your Leaders
2. Image: Jesus in the manger (JSB: pg. 191, but only Joseph, Mary and Jesus under the window)
3. Image: Angels and shepherds (JSB: pg. 189)
4. Image: Jesus in the manger (JSB: pg. 191 again; but this time FULL PAGE)
5. Video: Wise Men (Public>KC>Videos and Media>Christmas)
6. Song: Jesus Loves Me (with hand motions)
7. Song: King of the Jungle

connect questions

Tell me about the magi.

What did the magi do when they found Jesus?

parent page

Today, we reviewed the Christmas story and talked about the wise men. They saw the star that appeared when Jesus was born, but they had to travel a long, long time to find him. When they finally found Jesus, they worshipped him by bowing before him and giving him gifts. And we can worship too! Read the story together in Matthew 2:1-12.