

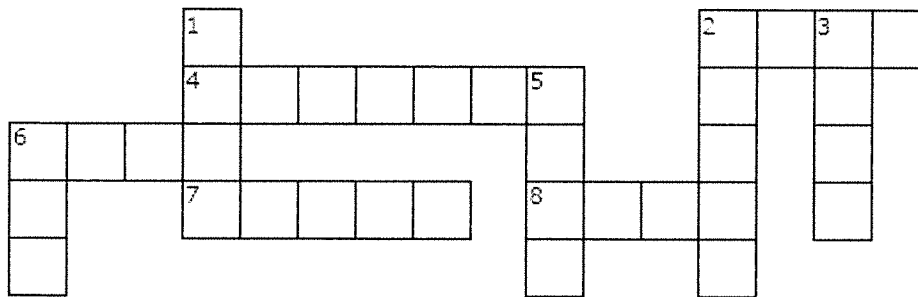
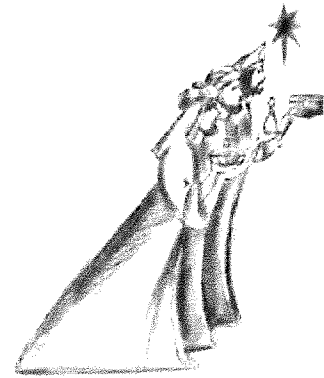


**Wise Men Worship Jesus
Matthew 2**

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The Visit of the Magi

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 and of incense and of myrrh.
Matthew 2:11 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. The wise men who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born
4. A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell
6. To come into existence by birth
7. Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them
8. A twinkling point of light in the night sky

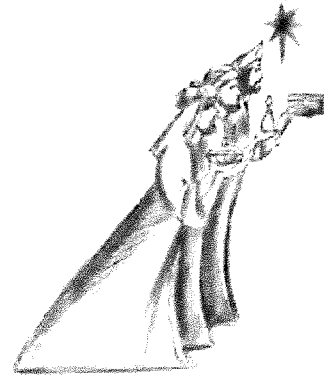
DOWN

1. A male ruler of a country
2. A sticky substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume
3. A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery
5. The direction which is opposite to west
6. To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect

| | | | | |
|-------|------|------|-------|---------|
| MAGI | BOW | STAR | GOLD | KING |
| GIFTS | EAST | BORN | MYRRH | INCENSE |

The Visit of the Magi

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Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- ___ 1. The wise men who searched for Jesus
A. Herod B. priests C. myrrh D. Magi
- ___ 2. To come into existence by birth
A. die B. born C. rule D. king
- ___ 3. A male ruler of a country
A. king B. queen C. prophet D. Magi
- ___ 4. A twinkling point of light in the night sky
A. earth B. star C. sun D. moon
- ___ 5. The direction which is opposite to west
A. east B. north C. star D. south
- ___ 6. To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect
A. born B. incense C. bow D. east
- ___ 7. Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them
A. jewels B. rewards C. Magi D. gifts
- ___ 8. A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery
A. incense B. silver C. gold D. myrrh
- ___ 9. A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell
A. gold B. silver C. wax D. incense
- ___ 10. A substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume
A. gold B. myrrh C. incense D. silver

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE FOR 1-4-15
2nd SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

(COMMUNION SUNDAY)

Teachers: Gail Bowers & Seth Bowers

Theme: The story of Epiphany: Who were those guys – really?

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12 (See text on last page)

WELCOME CHILDREN ^{Attendance} **RECOGNIZE BIRTHDAYS – TAKE OFFERING**

INTRO:

Today is January 4, and two days from now, on Tuesday, is a **special day** in the Church year. Does anybody know what's special about January 6th? (*Wait for answers. Some of the older kids might know.*)

It's called "EPIPHANY." ^{Show on church calendar} Does anybody know the meaning of that day? (*Wait for answers.*) OK. Epiphany is when we remember the **visit of the wise men**, when they came to bow down to Jesus and present their gifts to him.

BIBLE STORY:

Let's read the story — it's found in **Matthew 2:1-12**.

NOTE: Depending on what ages of children you have in class, you can read this from the red "Children's International" Bible or from one of the pictorial children's Bibles, or both. (I have flagged the pages.) If you have a bunch of **BIG** kids, they may want to read the story from the red Bible. If you happen to have all **LITTLE** kids in class, you might want to just read them the storybook, "A Star for Jesus."

People have a lot of ideas about the "wise men story" that aren't right. So today, we're going to talk a bit about what we **know**, and what we **don't know** about these guys who came to see Jesus. I'm going to ask you a number of questions for which you won't know the answers, or you may have the **wrong** answers, but that's OK — a lot of **grownups** would get them wrong, too!

NOTE: You may want to choose just a few of the following questions, depending on which kids you have in class.

1. First, how many wise men were there? (*Wait for answers. Most likely the kids are all going to say "three."*) Well, you know what? The Bible doesn't **tell** us how many there were!
2. Where do you think the idea might have come from that there were **three** of them? (*Wait for answers.*) It may have been because the Bible lists three **gifts**, so a lot of people assumed that each gift was given by a separate wise man, so that would make three. But again, we really don't know! There could have been six, or ten or twenty. This is one of those places where the Bible just doesn't give us any details.
3. What were the three gifts that they brought? (*Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*) GOLD was a symbolic gift for a king; FRANKINCENSE was a symbolic gift for a PRIEST; and MYRRH was symbolic for someone who would SUFFER. Jesus is our High Priest and our King, and during his life as a man on earth, he certainly did suffer, so all of those symbols "fit" him. But from a very **practical** standpoint, Mary and Joseph were poor people, and the gold must have helped them out a LOT!
4. When your family goes on a trip, your parents probably set the GPS or SatNav on your car, and it shows them the right roads to go on, and it lets them know if they take a wrong turn along the way. Right? That's how most people do it these days! But how did the wise men know where to go? (*Wait for answers.*) That's right — they followed a star! But still, it wasn't easy. The star gave them a general direction, but it didn't show them a specific route through the deserts where they had to travel.
5. How far was it, and how long did it take, for the wise men to find Jesus? The fact is, nobody knows exactly where they **started**, so nobody knows how far it was. But we do know it was a long, long way, and it wasn't an easy trip. They traveled through hot, dry deserts, so they had to take plenty of food and water with them, AND they had to know where they could find more food and water (especially water) along the way! In other words, they had to spend quite a bit of time — and money! — preparing for this trip.
6. HOW did the wise men travel? (*Wait for answers.*) In pictures, we always see them on **camels**, but the truth is, we don't really know! However they went, it sure wasn't in a comfortable car with cushioned seats and temperature control! These guys had to really, truly, seriously, want to find Jesus!
7. Where in Israel did they stop **before** they made it to Bethlehem? (*Wait for answers.*) They stopped in Jerusalem first, at King Herod's palace. It's quite possible that they figured that the new king would have been **born** there — wouldn't a KING

be born in a PALACE? Or maybe they just figured Herod would be able to tell them where to go.

8. Does anybody know what happened when the wise men asked Herod where they could find the new baby king? *(Wait for answers.)* Herod was really upset. **HE** was the **KING** and he didn't want anybody else trying to take his place!

Herod sent for the Jewish religious leaders and asked them where the prophets had said the King of the Jews would be born, and they told him "Bethlehem." Then what did Herod tell the wise men to do? He said, "Go and find the child, and then come back and tell ME where he is so I may worship him, too."

9. But did Herod really plan to go to Bethlehem and worship Jesus? *(Wait for answers.)* NO! Herod was afraid this new king would take away his power. He planned to kill baby Jesus, not worship him!

10. DID the wise men go back and tell Herod where to find Jesus. ? *(Wait for answers.)* Why not? *(Wait for answers.)* God told them, in a dream, NOT to return to Jerusalem but to travel home by another way.

Mary and Joseph had to "hide out" in Egypt for several years until Herod had died and it was safe for them to take Jesus back to their home in Nazareth. The gifts from the wise men must have been **very** important in providing shelter, food, and clothing for their little family until they could return home again. These wise men were pagans from Persia, and yet God used them to help care for his son. Our God is a God of ALL.

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Please help us **to want to know him**, as much as those ancient wise men who traveled through deserts and dangers to worship him and bring their gifts. Please help us to care as much as they did! In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

COMMUNION SUNDAY - NO CRAFT There are coloring pages & puzzles in the blue folder.

Matthew 2:1-12 – EPIPHANY (Jan. 6th)

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage. ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.