

Christmas

The wise men

Children discover the story of the wise men and what it means to worship Jesus.

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Supplies:

- Pass the parcel game: A small packet of sweets is wrapped in many layers of newspaper. There are also questions wrapped between the layers.
- Wise men finger puzzle: template for each child and crayons
- Star of Bethlehem: popsicle or other sticks, string, glue and decorations
- Telescope / binoculars: toilet paper rolls, string,, glue and decorations
- Gold, frankincense and myrrh party: matchboxes, yellow/gold sweets, small bottles of cooldrink, edible sticks and pill containers
- Cardboard, stationery and decorations as needed



Welcome

Play “Pass the Parcel”: Children sit in a circle. Show them a gift wrapped in many layers of newspaper. Play some music while the children pass the gift around. When the music stops, the child who has the gift removes one layer of newspaper and answers the question. You could include the following questions, but adapt them to your culture and context.

Do you put up a Christmas tree?

Do you give/receive gifts?

What do you do on Christmas Eve?

Where do you normally spend Christmas?

Do you tell the Christmas story?

What is your favourite Christmas carol?

What were the names of Jesus’ parents?

Who looked after the sheep in the fields?

Where was Jesus born?

What food do you eat during Christmas time?

What food do you eat on Christmas Day?

Do you go to church on Christmas Day?

Do you decorate your house?

Do you sing Christmas carols?

Do you put up Christmas lights?

Who was the angel that visited Jesus’ mother?

What did the angel tell the shepherds?



Worship

Sing some Christmas carols.

Teach the children a song about the wise men, such as “We three kings of Orient are”.

Light a candle or put Christmas lights on with the words: “Jesus is born. He is the light of the world.” Let the children repeat the words.



Word

Read Matthew 2:1–12.

Use broomstick puppets or a sand box (with toilet roll figures) to play out the story.

Children reflect on the story:

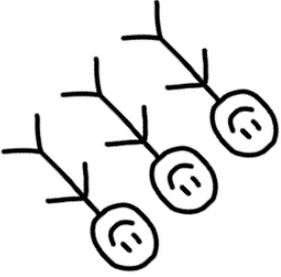
1. I wonder how it felt to follow the star for such a long way.
2. I wonder how you would feel if you met Baby Jesus.
3. I wonder what gift you would give him.
4. I wonder in what other ways we can worship Jesus.



Working and Playing

- Wise men finger puzzle: Make (fold) the finger puzzle and play the game to grasp the facts .
- Star of Bethlehem: Let each child make a star to put in their home / on their Christmas tree. Use popsicle or other sticks and string. Look for examples online.
- Telescope: Make telescopes / binoculars from toilet rolls and decorate it.
- Gold, frankincense and myrrh party: Each child has gold (decorated matchbox with yellow or gold sweets inside), frankincense (decorated pill container with edible chocolate sticks) and myrrh (small decorated coldrink bottle). Each child could also make a crown from cardboard or paper plates and decorate it. Put the crowns on, eat the “gold, frankincense and myrrh” and have a party!

Closing prayer

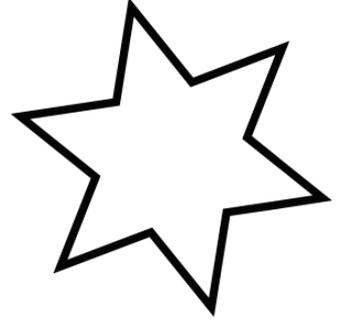


How many wise men were there?

We don't know

What did the star mean?

A King was born



Where did the star lead them?

Bethlehem

What did they do when they met Jesus?

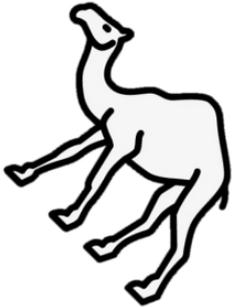
Bowed down and worshiped him

Gold, frankincense and myrrh

Which gifts did they bring?

Who did the wise men meet in Jerusalem?

King Herod



Where did the wise men come from?

From the East

Baby Jesus

Who did they bring gifts for?

