



A LESSON AT ADVENT: THE WISE MEN VISIT JESUS

BEFORE YOU READ:

- During Advent, we learn all about God sending the world a special gift. That gift was Jesus!
- Before Jesus was born, special messengers of God, called prophets, told the people that Jesus was coming. Jesus was coming to save the world because it was broken due to sin.
- God chose earthly parents for Jesus. Their names were Mary and Joseph.
- The Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus announced that everyone needed to be counted. While obeying that order, the time came for Mary to have baby Jesus. Jesus was born where animals were, because there was no room in the inn for Mary and Joseph.
- Some months after Jesus was born (we aren't told the exact time), special visitors came from afar to worship him.

Read the following Bible Story to learn more!



READ: BIBLE STORY-MATTHEW 2

1. Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem.
2. They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him."
3. When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too.
4. So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah was going to be born.
5. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied. "This is what the prophet has written. He said,
6. "' But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah. A ruler will come out of you. He will rule my people Israel like a shepherd.'"
7. Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared.
8. He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report it to me. Then I can go and worship him too."
9. After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was.
10. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy.
11. The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh.
12. But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.
13. When the Wise Men had left, Joseph had a dream. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph. "Get up!" the angel said. "Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to come back. Herod is going to search for the child. He wants to kill him."
14. So Joseph got up. During the night, he left for Egypt with the child and his mother Mary.

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DISCUSSION/REVIEW:

- Where were the wise men from? How did they know Jesus had been born?
- How many wise men came to Jerusalem? **(The Bible doesn't say. Some people often say there were 3 Wise Men, but Scripture doesn't directly confirm that!)**
- How did King Herod respond when he learned that Wise Men had come looking for Jesus, "The King of the Jews?" Why was Herod threatened by Jesus?
- When the Wise Men found Jesus, what did they do? What expensive gifts did they present to Jesus?
- What did Herod want to do to Jesus?
- Where did Mary and Joseph take Jesus to escape Herod's threat?
- Read Matthew 2:16. How do we know that Jesus could have been up to two years old when the Wise Men came searching for him in Jerusalem? **(Herod gave the orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and the surrounding area who were two years and under, based on the time the Wise Men had first seen the star.)**
- The prophet Micah said that Jesus would rule like a shepherd. What type of King does this mean Jesus would be?
- How can we worship Jesus as King in our daily lives?



ACTIVITY: "MAKE A GIFT"

Supplies needed: art supplies, play-doh, boxes, pipe cleaners, paint, paper, or any creative supplies you have at home.

1. The wise men presented Jesus with treasures. Invite your child to use materials to create a special treasure that they would have presented to Jesus. Have them share their creation with you.
2. Afterward, invite your child to name how they can honor Jesus with their internal gifts and talents each and every day.



PRAYER:

Dear God,
 You came to earth as a baby, but you were the King of Kings! Help me to worship you and give you my treasure, just like the Wise Men!
 In Jesus' name,
 Amen!

