



A LESSON AT ADVENT: THE WISE MEN VISIT JESUS

BEFORE YOU READ:

- During Advent, we celebrate God coming to be with us as a human.
 - Before Jesus was born, special messengers called prophets told the people about Jesus. Jesus was coming to save the world because it was broken. The world was broken because of sin. The people waited a long time, but God sent Jesus just like God promised!
 - Jesus is the Son of God, but he also had parents on earth. His mother's name was Mary. His father's name was Joseph. An angel named Gabriel told them that Mary would give birth to Jesus.
 - Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to be counted, just as Caesar Augustus had ordered. While there, Mary gave birth to Jesus.
 - After Jesus was born, special visitors came to worship him.

Read the following Bible Story to learn more!



READ: THE 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.

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DISCUSSION/REVIEW:

- Where were the Wise Men from? (**The east**) We don't know how many Wise Men there were, but they traveled from far away!
- How did the Wise Men know that Jesus had been born? (**They saw "his star" in the sky. That star guided them to Jesus**)
- Was King Herod happy or angry when he heard that Wise Men had come looking for Jesus to worship him? (**angry**)
- What did King Herod tell the Wise Men to do? (**Go search for the child and tell him as soon as they found Jesus**).
- What did Herod say he wanted to do? (**Worship Jesus**). Do you think Herod really wanted to worship Jesus? (**No!**) Why? (**Jesus was called the "King of the Jews." King Herod didn't want any other King to threaten his power, because he was the King.**)
- When the Wise Men found Jesus, what did they do? (**They bowed and worshipped Jesus**)
- What treasures did the Wise Men give to Jesus? (**Gold, Frankincense, and myrrh**)
- How did God warn the Wise Men not to go back to Herod? (**God warned them in a dream**)
- How can you worship Jesus every day?



ACTIVITY 1: "FOLLOW THE STAR"

Supplies needed: a flashlight, a piece of black paper with a star shape cut out of the center (should be smaller than the diameter of the flashlight), tape (or rubber band)

1. Cut a star shape out of the center of a piece of black paper.
2. Attach the paper to the flashlight using tape or a rubber band.
3. Turn off the lights.
4. Tell the story of Jesus' birth, and the wise men who traveled from the east to worship him. As you tell the story, slowly move the star around the room. As you move the star, invite the children to join you in following it.
5. Allow your child(ren) to try to tell the story while shining the flashlight themselves.



ACTIVITY 2: "MAKE A GIFT"

Supplies needed: art supplies, play-doh, boxes, pipe cleaners, 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!
Help me to worship you and give you my treasure, just like the Wise Men! In Jesus' name,
Amen!