

Clean-up Time

Encourage preschoolers to help at clean-up time. Assign specific tasks for preschoolers to do such as placing all the crayons in the basket, throwing away the trash, gathering all the glue sticks, etc. Guide children to the Bible Story Time area.



to share one gift item.) Christmas is a time to celebrate Jesus' birthday, and one way we celebrate is to give gifts to one another. Today our Bible story is about some men who brought gifts to Jesus. Listen to hear how they knew where to find Jesus."

Bible Story

The Wise Men's Story (Matthew 2:1-12)

Jesus had been born in Bethlehem. For the time being, Mary and Joseph decided to make the little town their home. God wanted other people to know about Jesus' birth, so He placed a special star in the sky. A group of men called wise men lived far away from Bethlehem. These wise men studied the stars and the Holy Scriptures. One night they were looking up at the sky and saw a star that was shining oh-so-bright! They learned that the star meant a very special King had been born.

"Let's go and find this King!" the wise men said. So they packed their camels and went on a long trip across the desert. They followed the star in the direction it seemed to be going until they reached a city called Jerusalem where King Herod lived.

They began asking, "Where is the newborn King? We want to worship Him." This made King Herod mad. He wanted to be the only King! King Herod asked the temple leaders if they had read about a new king. The men told Herod the Scriptures said a special baby

would be born in Bethlehem, and He would be a King. Herod told the wise men to go to Bethlehem and to report back to him so he, too, could go and worship the new King. But Herod did not want to worship Baby Jesus, and He did not want Jesus to become King. The wise men left Jerusalem and followed the star until it rested over the place in Bethlehem where Jesus and His family lived. The wise men were overjoyed at finding Mary, Joseph, and the special Child, Jesus. They bowed down and thanked God for sending Jesus. They also brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then the wise men returned to their home far away, but they did not return to King Herod to tell him where to find the new King, Jesus.

Talk Time

1. Show the teaching picture for today's Bible story and ask these questions. "What did the wise men see in the sky? What did the star mean? How did the wise men find Jesus? What did they do when they found Him?"

2. Open your Bible and read the Bible Phrase to the children. Say the phrase together, "The wise men worshipped Jesus" (Matthew 2:11). Talk to preschoolers about ways that we can worship Jesus such as by singing songs about and to Jesus, thanking God for Jesus in our prayers, and living and acting as Jesus would act.

3. Close the Bible Story Time by inviting children to join you in prayer: Thank God for sending Jesus.

4. Direct children to Craft Time.

Bible Story Time

- Supplies:
- Bible
 - Teaching Picture "The Wise Men's Story" (Reproducible)
 - God's Unfolding Story Cube (Reproducible/Cardstock)

Introduction

- Show the God's Unfolding Story Cube. Express to the boys and girls that even though we find many stories in the Bible, the Bible actually tells one big story we can call God's Unfolding Story. Tell children that each picture represents a part of God's Unfolding Story. Turn the cube and talk about each point of the story. (Refer to page 1.) Today's story is from the fourth part; God Sent Jesus to Help Us.

- Express the following in your own words. "Would anyone like to share about a gift he or she got at Christmas? (Allow each child



Sermon Title: The Wise Men Sought for Jesus

Sermon Text: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon Truth: We should seek to know more about Jesus

Sermon Object: The Wise Men Sought for Jesus Sermon Picture

Seasonal Emphasis: Christmas/Advent

Sermon:

What are some of the things we do at Christmas? (Allow for responses.) Certainly, one of the things we all enjoy is giving and receiving gifts. Have you ever had someone hide a gift for you and make you hunt for it? Do you remember how eager you were to find it? When we're looking for something important, we look really hard for it, don't we?

That's what it must have been like for the wise men who sought for Jesus in the Book of Matthew. Somehow God had shown them a King would be born and a special star would show them the way to find the child.

We don't know how far these wise men traveled, but it probably took them quite a while. In those days, travel wasn't easy and it was slow.

Here's a picture of the wise men looking for Jesus. Do you see the camels they were riding? They probably weren't very comfortable, were they? Can you imagine how tired they got, traveling day after day for weeks? They must have thought it was really important to find Jesus.

Sometimes it's not easy to learn more about Jesus. We have to study, and read, and pray, and go to church, and ask questions. Do you think the wise men were happy to find Jesus? (Allow for responses.) Do you think they were disappointed when they found Jesus? Certainly not. Jesus was worth the time and cost of traveling to find him. And, Jesus is still worth the time and effort it takes to know him better.

Christmas isn't the only time of year we should seek Jesus, is it? No. But I hope this Christmas season will remind you that we should seek to know more about Jesus all year long.