



ADVENT LESSON SR. "The Wise Men Visited"

Date: Sunday January 4, 2026 **Teachers:** Mikes S, Nate B

Props: from home: ** at centre: cut out star, paper gifts with review questions, tape nativity cube

Bible Passage: Matthew 2:1-21

Main Point: The wise men worshiped Jesus as King.

INTRO TO LESSON JR & SR COMBINED: Susan (scramble words, gold, frankincense and myrrh)
(ask kids to decode)

Mike

Even though Christmas is over, it is still the season of Christmas that we consider that Christ Has Come and Christ is coming Again! This Sunday in particular is the Sunday before the Epiphany that we celebrate when God revealed His glorious rescue plan to the Magi from the far East. God put this star in the sky like a spotlight that shouted, "Here He is everyone! This is My Son!" A few magi were on the lookout for this sign. They had studied the promises that God had made long ago. They searched with their eyes and thought with their brains and trusted with their hearts that when this star appeared, it would lead them to God's promised King. God announced the birth of His Son by sending a choir of angels to some ordinary shepherds in the fields. Then a star appeared in the sky. We are going to hear today about some men who traveled from far away to Jesus. They were people who didn't worship Jesus and yet because they studied the stars, they knew that something cosmic was up and this star was a sign of the Divine. They came to worship a King who was born in Bethlehem- but this wasn't an ordinary king, this King was going to rule the world by laying down His life to give us life!

THE BIBLE STORY (VIDEO) "THE MAGI VISITED"

DISCUSSION VIDEO

Nate

This video thinks a bacon bubblegum burrito bowl is a thing that is valuable, but we know that is silly! When we think about the best gift at Christmas we think about God giving his life through Jesus the Son. Jesus is our greatest treasure! There is nothing more wonderful and more valuable than Jesus. The magi knew to give gifts, because giving is the expression of a heart full of worship and gratitude. We can do nothing to earn the gift of God's grace. Once we receive the gift of God's grace, our hearts should want to give God gifts back out of gratitude. That's what worship is all about!

DISMISS JR -GR.1

ACTIVITY: "where's the star?"

Mike

materials: (** Cut out a star in construction paper or bring in an ornamental star from home)

Where's the star? Direct one kid (the "wise man") to sit in a chair facing away from the rest of the group. Instruct the other kids to be seated, all facing the back of the wise man's chair.

Silently hand a construction paper star to a kid to hide behind her back. (All the kids should put their hands behind their backs to confuse the wise man.)

Lead the group to chant, "Wise man, wise man, where's the star? We've been looking from afar."

The wise man turns around and takes one guess as to who has the star. If he guesses correctly, he takes another turn as a wise man. If he guesses incorrectly, the kid who had the star is the new wise man.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW:**Nate**

materials: (cut out paper gifts taped to the whiteboard with review questions written on the back)

Write a few review questions on back of cardboard/paper “gifts” taped to the whiteboard. Explain that each kid will come up one at a time, select a gift, and answer the review question.

What did God put in the sky to let the wise men know Jesus was born? (*a star, Matt. 2:2*)

What gifts did the wise men give to Jesus? (*gold, frankincense, and myrrh; Matt. 2:11*)

Did Herod want to actually worship Jesus? (*No, he wanted to destroy Him; Matt. 2:13*)

How did God warn Mary and Joseph about Herod’s plot to kill the boys in Bethlehem? (*An angel told Joseph in a dream, Matt. 2:13*)

Where did the angel tell Joseph to take Mary and Jesus? (*Egypt, Matt. 2:13*)

A king or queen has power, and people have to do what he or she says. Our Bible story teaches us about two different kinds of kings. King Herod was not a kind king. He wanted to keep his power, and he was afraid that Jesus would take his power away from him. The wise men worshiped Jesus as King, but Jesus is a different kind of king. Jesus came to earth as a human being so He could experience everything that we face. Jesus’ rule is upside down. His Kingdom isn’t about power but self giving love. Jesus is the True King of the world!

ACTIVITY: “The Wise men came to worship ”materials: (grid pic x 3 in folder)

Mike

Divide the class into 3 teams and compete to use the picture grid and ask the kids to find the matching pic with the letter and fill it in one letter at a time to reveal the message Jesus is the true King to be worshipped! O come let us adore Him!

ACTIVITY: “Prophecy pass” materials: (none)

Nate

Guide kids to sit in a tight circle. I am going to whisper a secret message into the ear of [name of kid to your right]. Then she will whisper it into the ear of [person to her right]. Keep passing the message around the circle. You may only whisper the message once, so speak clearly. Whisper the secret message to the next player: “Jesus was born to be God’s promised Savior.” When the message reaches the last person in the circle, invite him to announce the message to the group. God spoke through many prophets that He would send a Savior. Sometimes people listened to their message. Sometimes they forgot. Often, they didn’t understand. Our Bible story today is about some wise men who understood the prophecies. Listen to find out what they did because of what they believed about God’s promised Savior.

ACTIVITY: What gift would you bring?

Mike

The wise men brought gifts that were special to them and from their culture. They brought gifts that were telling a story of what Jesus would do in the future by giving his life for his good world. Think about what you own and what is a special gift that you would bring to show your worship of Jesus. Ask each child to share.

ACTIVITY: “Nativity story cube” materials:

Nate

Provide a story cube template for the kids to cut out. Each side of the box displays a picture representing one part of the story of Jesus’ birth. Direct kids to fold the box along the dotted lines and then tape to secure it. Instruct kids to toss the cube and lightly catch it and tell the portion of the Christmas Story that it lands on .

The wise men worshiped Jesus as King. Many people do not yet worship Jesus as King. Think of someone whom you know who does not worship Jesus. Could you share the good news that Christ came into the world to be with us, to save us, and to bring us back into relationship with God.

ACTIVITY SHEET: “Gifts on a grid”