

WISE MEN



WISE MEN SEEK THE KING OF KINGS

BONUS LESSON

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PREPARATION GUIDE

BONUS LESSON - PRE-K

WEEK 1

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Wrapped Gift Boxes (2-3 per class) | Painter's Tape | Christmas Music | *Wise Men* Activity Page (1 per child) | Craft Sticks (3 per child) | A Variety of Papers (glitter, cardstock, etc.) | Glue | Glitter | Other Decorations (gems, buttons, bells, etc.) | Crayons |

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BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 2:1-12 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the King of kings!

MEMORY VERSE

“He is the blessed and only Ruler. He is the King of all kings and the Lord of all lords.”

1 Timothy 6:15 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

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GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What’s more fun, giving gifts or getting them? Why?
- What was your favorite Christmas gift?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “What is a king? [Allow for responses.] What do you think I mean when I say Jesus is the King of kings? [Allow for responses.] Yes! It means He is the most important King EVER! He is our King, and He deserves all our worship. Let’s sing to Him now.”

This week’s bonus lesson focuses on the Wise Men’s journey to find Jesus. Thus, we recommend singing “We Three Kings of Orient Are.” There are several kids’ versions available on YouTube. We suggest the one by CedarMont Kids.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Prayer is so important. Teach your children that when we pray, we are talking with GOD, the Creator of the Universe, and He is listening!

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“Dear God, thank You for loving us and sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our King. We can’t wait to learn more about you today. Amen.”*

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “Every December, we return to the story of Jesus’ birth. It’s the true story of how the same God who created the earth, trees, oceans, animals, and even you, became a tiny baby. He did it all so He could save us. Wow, He really loves us, doesn’t He? It’s also a story about some of the people who realized Jesus wasn’t an ordinary baby and how they stopped everything to worship Him. Today, we will talk about a few of those people – the Wise Men. First, though, let’s place this week’s puzzle piece on the wall.”

TRANSITION: Say, “Now, are you ready to play a game before we dig into our story?”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Wrapped Gift Boxes (1 per child) | Painter’s Tape | Christmas Music |

Say, “Today, we will see how quickly you can deliver your team’s gifts. Who thinks they can get the job done the fastest? Great! Let’s play!”

GAME GOAL: To be the first relay team to deliver and successfully stack their gifts



BEFORE CLASS, WRAP EMPTY BOXES IN CHRISTMAS PAPER. DO NOT ADD BOWS OR RIBBONS. ADDITIONALLY, MARK STARTING LINES AND FINISH LINES WITH PAINTER’S TAPE.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Divide the children into two relay teams. Provide each group with an equal number of wrapped boxes.
2. Start the race with Christmas music. At the signal, the first runners will each take a box and drop it off at the finish line. Then, they will return to the line and tag the next runner.
3. This process continues with the children stacking the boxes on one another (building a tower). If the stack falls, the children must restart the process at the starting line.
4. The first team to successfully stack all their gift boxes wins.

TRANSITION: Say, That was awesome! Excellent job ‘delivering’ the gifts! Now, let’s learn about some wise men who delivered gifts to the King of kings.”

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

Say, “It was in a land far away from Bethlehem that some Wise Men saw a special star. God put that star in the sky to show them where to find the new King. So, they gathered gifts and set out to find Him. The star led them to Jerusalem. They wanted to worship this new King, so immediately, they went to the ruler of the city: Herod. Surely, he would know where He was.

“However, Herod didn’t know what these men were talking about, and he became angry when he thought another king was coming. He asked the religious leaders where this king would be born, and they said to look for the baby in the little town of Bethlehem. Here’s what they read to King Herod:” Read Matthew 2:6.

**‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are important among the rulers of Judah.
A ruler will come from you.
He will be like a shepherd for my people, the Israelites.’**

Say, “So, King Herod told the Wise Men to go to Bethlehem, but first, he said, ‘When you find Him, come back and tell me so I can join you and worship him also.’ Herod didn’t mean this, however. He wanted to kill Jesus.

“When the Wise Men left Herod, the star started to move again. It stopped over a little house where they found Baby Jesus with Mary and Joseph, His parents. They worshiped Him and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then God warned them not to go back to Herod.” Read Matthew 2:12.

¹² But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country by a different way.

Ask, “Would you want to be one of the Wise Men? If so, why?” Allow the children to wonder and imagine themselves in this situation.

Say, “Sometimes, these men are called kings, but they weren’t really kings. They were smart men who knew a lot about the stars. They were also probably very rich. Somehow, they knew this star would lead them to the most important King.

“Jesus, this baby boy born in Bethlehem, is the King of kings God had promised to send His people. He is the Savior of the world. The Wise Men traveled a long way to find Him, but we don’t have to search like this. Jesus has found us! He loves you more than you can imagine. He left His heavenly home to be with us and save us.”

TRANSITION: Say, “I am so thankful that God sent His Son to save us! **Jesus is the King of all Kings!**”

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Today’s lesson was amazing! Let’s talk about it together.”

- 1. Were the Wise Men kings? If not, who were they?**
Response: No, they were very wise men who studied the stars.
- 2. Why did they travel so far to find Jesus?**
Response: They wanted to worship him.
- 3. Why did King Herod become so angry?**
Response: He didn’t want anyone else to take His place as king.
- 4. What did the Wise Men do when they found Baby Jesus?**
Response: They gave Him gifts and worshiped Him.

5. What have you learned about God from today's story?

Response: **Jesus is the King of all kings.** God sent His Son to save us. Jesus saves us from our sins, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "You were excellent listeners today! Let's make something to take home that will help us remember who Jesus is."

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Wise Men Activity Page* (2-3 per class) | Craft Sticks (3 per child) | A Variety of Papers (glitter, cardstock, etc.) | Glue | Glitter | Other Decorations (gems, buttons, bells, etc.) | Crayons |

Say, "The men were wise in many ways, but most importantly, they understood that **Jesus is the King of kings.** Let's make our own 'wise men' to remember that we should worship Jesus too."



BEFORE CLASS, PRINT THE *WISE MEN ACTIVITY PAGE* ON CARDSTOCK TO CREATE A TEMPLATE. THEN, TRACE THE FACES ONTO FLESH-COLORED PAPER. TRACE THE CROWNS ON GLITTER PAPER. PRE-CUT THE PIECES THE CHILDREN WILL USE TO BUILD THEIR WISE MEN. EACH CHILD WILL NEED ENOUGH MATERIALS TO CREATE THREE WISE MEN.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Allow the children to choose the faces, bodies, and crowns for three Wise Men.
2. Decorate and/or color the wise men pieces.
3. Finally, assemble and glue the pieces of three Wise Men to the craft sticks. (See the example picture for assembly.) Place the crafts where the glue can dry before the children take them home.



TRANSITION: Say, "The Wise Men followed a star to find Jesus so they could worship Him. Why do you think they were willing to travel so far to worship a baby? [Allow for responses.] Yes! God was showing them that this baby would change the world. Jesus is the King of kings."

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "This is a special lesson, so we only have this week to memorize our Focus Verse. That's no problem for us, however! Let's work together to learn it."

“He is the blessed [fold hands in prayer] **and only Ruler** [hold up one finger]. **He is the King** [pretend to place a crown on your head] **of all** [make a broad, sweeping motion with your arms] **kings** [pretend to place a crown on your head] **and the Lord** [bow at your waist] **of all** [make a broad sweeping motion with your arms] **lords** [bend at your waist].”
1 Timothy 6:15 (ICB) [hold hands out like a book]

CHALLENGE: Instead of using the hand motions we’ve provided, choose a few words from the verse and ask the children to come up with original ideas for acting them out.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, “Jesus came as a baby. The Wise Men wanted to find Him because they knew He was a special King who would do great things. They were right! Jesus is the King of kings! Let’s pray to Him now.”

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us. We know You are the true King who came and died so we can be saved. We want to be Your children. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”*



ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO MAKE THE CHILDREN’S HEARTS RECEPTIVE TO THE GOSPEL. PRAY THAT HE WILL HELP YOU PRESENT THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST CLEARLY SO THAT THE CHILDREN WILL UNDERSTAND THEIR NEED FOR HIM AND RECOGNIZE HIS GREAT LOVE.

RELEASE —

If you have extra time before the parents arrive, replay the ENGAGE relay game or sing your favorite Christmas songs.



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KINGS**

**Bonus
Lesson**

**Wise
Men**

