The Wise Men Follow the Star *Bible lesson*

Matthew 2:1–12 · 30-minute core or 60-minute full lesson



BIG IDEA

God leads us to Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE · MATTHEW 2:10 BSB

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with great delight."

LESSON AT A GLANCE

0–6	**Welcome** · Star path	
6–10	**Hook** · Following directions	
10–20	**The Story** · The Story	●
20–30	**Talk** · Talk	●
30–35	**Memory Verse** · Memory Verse	●
35–40	**Sing** · Sing	
40–50	**Activity** · Gifts review	
50–55	**Respond** · Gift journal	
55–60	**Pray & Send Home** · Pray & Send Home	●

● Core step. Teach just these for the 30-minute version.

Leader prep

Bible background

Some time after Jesus was born, wise men (magi), likely scholars who studied the stars, came from the east to Jerusalem asking, “Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star” (Matthew 2:1–2). They were not Jewish; they came from far away.

King Herod was troubled and jealous. The priests told him the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (2:4–6, from Micah 5:2). Herod secretly told the wise men to find the child and report back, pretending he wanted to worship Him too (2:7–8).

The star went ahead of them and stopped over the house where Jesus was. They were overjoyed, bowed down and worshipped Him, and gave gold, frankincense and myrrh (2:9–11). Warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they went home by another route (2:12).

Where is Jesus in this story?

The wise men were outsiders from far away, and God led them to Jesus too. Jesus is the King of the whole world, for every nation and every person. God still leads people to Jesus today, through the Bible, through prayer and through people who love Him.

Supplies

- A flashlight and a paper star
- Three small boxes or containers (gold, a jar, a bottle) for the gifts
- Masking tape
  Prep: Tape a winding ‘desert path’ on the floor before class.
- Printed story cards, verse poster, coloring pages and parent pages
  Prep: Print from the Classroom resources section.
- A screen for the story video (optional)

Questions kids might ask

“Were there three wise men?”

The Bible doesn’t say how many. There were three gifts, so people often picture three.

“What are frankincense and myrrh?”

Expensive spices: frankincense is a sweet-smelling incense, and myrrh is a precious perfume oil. They were gifts fit for a king.

“Why was King Herod upset?”

He wanted to be the only king and was afraid of losing his power. God protected Jesus by warning the wise men.

If a child shares something serious

When kids share what scares or worries them, some may mention something serious, like someone hurting them or a big fear at home. Listen, thank them for telling you, and don't promise to keep it secret. Tell your ministry leader the same day and follow your church's child-safety policy.

Teach it

SAY read aloud DO leader action KIDS SAY call and response

1 Welcome 6 min

Full lesson

Star path

DO Kids follow the taped desert path while a leader shines a flashlight 'star' ahead. When the light stops, they freeze and kneel.

SAY A star led some travelers a very long way. Where do you think it led them?

2 Hook 4 min

Full lesson

Following directions

SAY Has anyone ever used a map or GPS to find somewhere? What happens if you stop following it?

SAY Today we'll meet travelers who followed God's 'map' in the sky all the way to Jesus.

3 The Story 10 min

Core

DO Play The Wise Men Follow the Star video (3 min), or read it aloud with the story cards.

SAY Listen for how God protected Jesus at the end.

DO After the video, have kids open their Bibles to Matthew 2:9–12. Ask a confident reader to read it aloud.

SAY The wise men worshipped Jesus as King. Then God warned them in a dream, and they went home another way. God was in charge the whole time.

KIDS SAY **God leads us to Jesus!**

4 Talk 10 min

Core

Why did the wise men travel so far?
Listen for: They knew a special King had been born and wanted to worship Him.

Why didn't King Herod really want to worship Jesus?
Listen for: He was jealous and afraid of another king. He was only pretending.

How did God protect Jesus?
Listen for: He warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod.

How does God help us find our way to Jesus today?
Listen for: Through the Bible, through prayer, and through people who love Him.

OLDER KIDS Read Matthew 2:1–2 and Isaiah 60:3. The wise men came from another nation to worship Jesus. What does that tell us about who Jesus came for?

5 Memory Verse 5 min

Core

DO Write the verse on a whiteboard or hold up the poster. Teach the motions.

> **"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with great delight."**
> Matthew 2:10 · BSB

MOTIONS

- **When they saw the star,** Shade your eyes and point up to a star.
- **they rejoiced** Clap your hands.
- **with great delight.** Jump and throw your arms up!

PRACTICE IT THREE WAYS

1. Say it with motions.
2. Disappearing words: erase or cover one word at a time until kids say it from memory.
3. Say it fast, then slow, then in a whisper.

6 Sing 5 min

Full lesson

> The Little Lantern song for this story is coming soon. For now, sing a favorite worship song about worshipping Jesus our King.

7 Activity 10 min

Full lesson

Gifts review

DO Two teams. Each correct answer earns a ‘gift’ for their team’s manger. First to three gifts, then play again.

What did the wise men see in the sky?
Listen for: A new star.

What town did the priests say the King would be born in?
Listen for: Bethlehem.

Name the three gifts.
Listen for: Gold, frankincense and myrrh.

How did the wise men feel when the star stopped?
Listen for: They rejoiced with great delight.

Why did they go home a different way?
Listen for: God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

> Prefer a quieter room? Hand out the mini-book or a coloring page instead.

8 Respond 5 min

Full lesson

Gift journal

DO Kids write: “My gift to Jesus this week will be ____.”

OLDER KIDS Who could you help ‘find their way’ to Jesus? Write their name and pray for them.

9 Pray & Send Home 5 min

Core

DO Pair kids up. Each shares the gift they want to give Jesus this week, and their partner prays for them.

SAY Close: God, thank you for leading people to Jesus, our King. Help us worship Him and give Him our best. Amen.

DO Hand out parent pages.