

Wise Men



Worship Their King

The wise men bumped along on their camels. “Are we there yet?” they groaned.

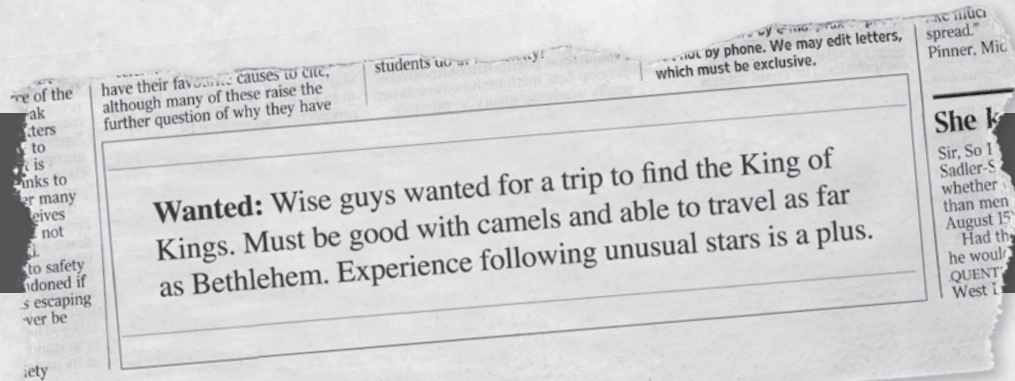
“LOOK! There’s the temple,” one of them shouted.

“At last!” said another. “We’ve finally reached Jerusalem.”

“Say, do you think we’ll meet the King today?” they asked each other.

The wise men clicked at their camels. “Hurry up!” they said. They couldn’t WAIT to see the King.





In the city, the wise men asked everyone they met, “Where is the child, the King of the Jews?”

Jews – another name for the Israelites.

“What child?” said the people.
“We don’t know who you’re talking about.”

The people of Jerusalem worried.
“Where are you from? You’re not Jews! Why are you looking for our King?”

“We are from a far country in the east,” answered the wise men. “We


saw the child’s star when it rose, and we came to worship Him.”

Soon a palace servant whispered in their ears. “King Herod wants to see you,” he said.

The wise men followed the servant. *Would Herod tell them where to find the Christ, the King of the Jews?*

At the palace, Herod told the wise men, “The Scriptures say that the Christ will be born in Bethlehem. Go look for the child there.”

“But once you find Him, come back to tell me,” said Herod. “I want to go and worship Him too.”



The wise men set off to Bethlehem.
They bounced along on their
camels, happy to be on their way.
But soon the sky grew dark.

“How will we find the King at
this time of night?” one of them
wondered. “There are so many
houses. So many little boys,”
said another. “How will we know
which child is the King?”

“Oh no!” they cried. “Have we
traveled this long, long way for
nothing? What will we do with
our gifts?”

Suddenly, a bright light appeared
in the sky. They knew THIS light.
It was the same special star they
had seen before.

“Hooray!” they shouted. They
sang and clapped and laughed
with joy. God had sent the star to
show the way.

Quickly, they followed the star
until it stopped over a small house
in Bethlehem.

“This must be the place,” they
whispered.

Inside the house, they saw the
child’s mother, Mary. Her toddler
son, Jesus, stood close beside her.

The wise men fell to their
knees before Jesus. They bowed
their heads to the ground and
worshiped the young King.



Then they opened their treasure chests. They set before Him the finest gifts of their country: gold and two precious spices, called frankincense and myrrh.

At last, the wise men had found the King! They knew He was not just the King of the Jews. He was their King too.

But not everyone would worship this King. In a dream, God warned the wise men not to go back to King Herod. Herod didn't really want to worship Jesus – he wanted to kill Him! So the wise men traveled home by a different way.

**Learn from the wise men's biography:**

- Jesus is the one true King of all people everywhere.
- Worship Jesus, your King. Love, obey and serve Him forever.

Parent Ideas

Wise Men Worship Their King

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Jesus is the one true King of all people everywhere.
- Worship Jesus, your King. Love, obey and serve Him forever.

1. Read-together activity

The wise men express various emotions throughout the biography: weariness from travel, excitement, discouragement, joy. As you read together, pause at various points and make faces or body movements to show how the wise men might have felt. For example, make sad, worried faces when you read about the sky growing dark and the potential difficulty in finding Jesus. Clap your hands and cheer when the wise men see the star.

2. Discussion activity

Ask your child to name her favorite part of the biography. Also ask her if anything surprised her in the biography. She may have been surprised that Mary and Jesus were in a house, not a stable, and that Jesus was a toddler, not an infant. Explain that the wise men saw Jesus' star when He was born, but it took them a while to travel to Bethlehem. By the time they arrived, Mary and Joseph lived in a house, and Jesus was probably 1 or 2 years old (Matthew 2:7, 2:16).

Ask your child if she has any questions about the biography. Here are two questions she might ask:

- Why did King Herod want to kill Jesus?
- What are frankincense and myrrh?

If your child asks the first question, explain that Herod felt jealous and afraid of Jesus because he thought Jesus would take over his job as king.

If your child asks the second question, explain that frankincense and myrrh are both sweet-smelling substances (gums), taken from trees.

In Bible times, they were expensive and used for very special purposes. Priests mixed frankincense with other spices to make the incense they burned in God's temple (Exodus 30:34-36). Incense reminds us of God's great name and our prayers to Him (Malachi 1:11; Psalm 141:2; Revelation 5:8). Myrrh was used to make perfumes. Before Jesus was laid in the tomb, men wrapped his body with cloths and a mixture of myrrh and aloes (John 19:39).

Close your discussion by talking about the kingship of Jesus. Ask questions such as these:

- Why is Jesus the true King of all people everywhere?
- How did the wise men treat King Jesus?
- How should people, like you and me, honor Jesus? (*worship, love, obey, respect, serve Him, etc.*)

3. Application activity

The wise men gave Jesus their best. They traveled many miles to see Him. They offered Him the most valuable gifts they had. Most importantly, they gave Him their worship.

Ask your child to pretend he was traveling with the wise men to see Jesus. Give him a sheet of paper, folded in half. On one half, tell him to draw a picture of a valuable gift he would have given Jesus. On the other half, encourage him to write a note expressing his love and admiration for Jesus.

Bow together in prayer, thanking and praising Jesus for His character. Use your child's handbook verse, Isaiah 9:6, to guide your prayers.