

## The worshipping wise men



### Bible verses:

Matthew 2:1-12; James 1:17  
Wise men come to visit Jesus



### Aim:

To learn, just like the wise men did, that worship is an essential part of following God



### Today's fruit:

Goodness



In today's session we will learn more about the wise men's journey and discover the importance of worshipping God in our own lives.

The wise men were educated, thoughtful people who had spent their lives carefully studying and learning about the world. When they saw the star, they knew there was something different about it and put their faith in where it would take them. God guided them to the place where King Jesus was born so that they could worship him.

God's goodness is shown in the way that he protected the wise men from Herod, guiding them to safety.

### Each child will need:

- *Thunks* handout, cut out
- Memory verse wristband
- Three strips of the same coloured paper (3.5 x 30 cm), scissors, glue sticks, more sheets of coloured paper, pens
- A pencil to keep (optional)
- *Worship dice* handout
- Pens
- *Explore It ideas* handout

### You will need:

- To watch **DIY Star Pencil Topper (origami star pencil topper)** by kids crafts (2:14) and perhaps practise making it
- Today's fruit sign: *Goodness*
- A flip chart and pens



## Start it

### Say:

Today we are discovering more about the wise men who travelled to see Jesus. Before we do that, let's get your brains working by thinking about some 'thunks'.

The following 'thunks' can be used in a number of ways. You could think about them as a whole group or divide the children into smaller teams.

### Thunks

- If there was a magic pill that meant you could never fail, would you take it?
- If you borrow a million pounds, does that make you a millionaire?
- Is there more happiness or more sadness in the world?
- If I composed a piece of music but it was never played, would it still be music?
- If we moved our church building to the other side of town, but left everything and everyone here, where would our church be?
- What colour would a zebra be if it lost its stripes?
- Can I be accused of cheating if I don't know the rules?
- What is the most important part of a fork?

### Say:

The people in our story today did a lot of thinking. They were wise men who were well educated; they had been studying for years. They placed their faith and trust in following a special star so that they could meet Jesus.

## Sing it

### Say:

In our Bible story today we meet the wise men as they came to worship Jesus. We're going to join the wise men and sing a song full of praise as we worship Jesus.

### Song

'Praise' by Maverick City and Elevation Worship, video created by Kid Kardia (3:33)



## Tell it

### Say:

When we read the Christmas story or take part in Nativity plays, the wise men often arrive at the same time as the shepherds. But that's not what the Bible tells us about what happened.

### Video

*Wise men, smart move: the story of happy Magi and unhappy Herod* by The Biggest Story (4:03)

### Ask:

- What do we not know about the wise men?
- What did the wise men bring with them?
- Why did the wise men travel to see Jesus?
- What was guiding them on their journey?

### Read:

**'Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east. We came to worship him."**

**'When King Herod heard about this new king of the Jews, he was troubled. And all the people in Jerusalem were worried too. Herod called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ would be born. They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this in the Scriptures:**

**'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."**

**'Then Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men from the east. He learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. Then Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. He said to them, "Go and look carefully to find the child. When you find him, come and tell me. Then I can go and worship him too."**

(Matthew 2:1-8 ICB)

### Ask:

- Why do you think Herod was unhappy about the birth of Jesus?
- Why did King Herod send the wise men to Bethlehem?

## Read:

'The wise men heard the king and then left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east. It went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshipped the child. They opened the gifts they had brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 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.'

(Matthew 2:9-12 *ICB*)

## Ask:

- What did the wise men do when they saw Jesus?
- How did the wise men know that they shouldn't return to King Herod?
- How were King Herod and Jesus different?

## Say:

The wise men knew that Jesus was the only king worth worshipping. They remained faithful to God as he guided them by the star.

## Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us what it means to have faith in God. Let's share it together.

Hand out the memory verse wristbands.

## Memory verse

'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.'

(Hebrews 11:1 *NIV*)

## Say:

Just like the wise men, we can trust God to guide us throughout our lives, even when we are not certain where it will take us.

## Action it

The children are going to make their own star pencil toppers to remind them of the story of the wise men. The clip can be used with the children to teach them how to make the pencil topper. An optional idea is to give each child a pencil to put their star topper on. TIP: when folding the star, you may wish to lightly glue down the ends of the long strip.

## Video

*DIY star pencil topper (origami star pencil topper)* by kids crafts (2:14)



## Pray it

### Say:

Herod wanted to be worshipped by the people and was jealous of anyone who took that attention away from him.

### Ask:

- Do you think King Herod deserved to be worshipped? Explain your answer.
- Why is God worthy of our worship?

Display the *Goodness* sign.

### Say:

Throughout the Bible we are reminded that we serve a good God.

### Read:

**'Every good action and every perfect gift is from God. These good gifts come down from the Creator of the sun, moon, and stars. God does not change like their shifting shadows.'**

(James 1:17 *ICB*)

### Ask:

Where did you see God's goodness in today's Bible story?

### Say:

The wise men trusted in God as they followed the star to the place of Jesus' birth. They came to worship the newborn King, and we are going to think about all the different ways we can worship as well.

## Discuss

Discuss with the children all the different ways that we can worship God. List as many as the group can think of on a flip chart. Here are some worship ideas to get you started: sing, get creative, write a poem, draw a picture, show kindness, read the Bible, pray, say thank you ...

Give each member of the group a *Worship dice* handout: the net of a cube to make a worship dice. As the music plays, ask the children to choose six worship ideas they would like to do and write one in each square of the net of their dice.

When the music finishes, give out the *Explore It ideas* handout and talk through the dice activity.

## Listen

'Good Good Father' (official lyric video) by Kids Version (4:52)

## Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



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*Explore It* is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

## The worshipping wise men

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



**Bible verses:**  
Matthew 2:1-12:  
James 1:17



**Aim:**  
To learn, just like the wise men did, that worship is an essential part of following God



**Today's fruit:**  
Goodness



### Create

Ask someone at home to help you make your worship dice using scissors and glue. Perhaps you could try out the first worship activity together.



### Worship

In our session this week, you wrote down six ways that you would like to worship over the coming week. Each day roll the dice and try a different way to worship God.



### Song for the week

'Praise' by Maverick City and Elevation Worship, video created by Kid Kardia



### Memory verse

'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.'

(Hebrews 11:1 NIV)

**LIVING  
OUT FAITH**

*Kids Alive!* Online – [salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive](http://salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive)

*Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children  
& Youth

# The worshipping wise men



**Bible verses:**  
Matthew 2:1-12



**Aim:**  
To learn that we can worship  
God in different ways



**Today's fruit:**  
Goodness



## Memory verse

**'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.'**

(Hebrews 11:1 NIV)



## Start it

What is the best gift you have ever received?

The wise men followed the star and travelled a long way to meet Jesus. They brought Jesus precious gifts as they came to worship him.



## Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Matthew 2:1-12 or watch the following clip.

***The story of the three wise men (the Christmas story for kids)*** by Minno Bible Stories for Kids (3:42)

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Why were the wise men excited about meeting Jesus?
- How did King Herod feel about the birth of baby Jesus?

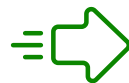
- Do you think King Herod was telling the truth about wanting to worship Jesus? Explain your answer.
- How did God keep the wise men safe?
- How did God keep Mary, Joseph and Jesus safe?
- What gift could you bring to Jesus?



## Sing It

**'If I were a butterfly'** (lyrics and music)  
**'The butterfly song'** by Brian Howard,  
uploaded by Unreached Corners (3:09)

**'Wonderful Lord'** (official video) by Doug Horley (3:13)



## Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Choose a partner and act out giving them an amazing gift.
- Draw a picture of what you imagine the gifts from the wise men looked like.
- See who can pull the best face that shows Herod's anger and jealousy.
- Think of three ways that you could worship God this week.