

Wise Men

Circle Time

During this time welcome children, open in prayer, review the Bible verses, and sing songs! This is the time of preparation for getting our hearts and minds ready to learn about and worship God 😊

Prayer

Dear God,
I am thankful for all you give,
For food, for love, a place to live;
I thank you for my family too,
And I want you to know that I love you.
Amen!

Bible Verse: ...They bowed down and worshiped him. They gave him gold, incense and myrrh. -Matthew 2:11

Activity Time

During this time you may do as many of the activities listed below as you would like. Let the Spirit direct this special teaching time!

Intro: (Who visited Jesus after his birth?)

Before class, locate figures from a Nativity set, greeting card, or story illustration.

Place Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, and the animals already in the stable. Put the wise men separate bag.

As our time together starts greet the children. Hold up the bag with the wise men in it. Choose a child to reach into the bag and discover what is inside. Have them show the group and then pass it around so each child has a turn to hold it (if it is fragile you may have to hold it yourself or this is a good time to discuss the important of being gentle with things that we hold dear). After this, place the wise men somewhere, but NOT in the stable.

Intro: (Other Visitors)

Say: The wise men were from a faraway place. A star shone so brightly in the sky that they knew it represented something special (it was the star that shone over the stable where Jesus was born). They traveled a long ways to come and visit the special baby and brought him precious gifts!

Ask: Have you ever given a gift to a baby? What might you give them? Let this be another time of conversation with the children.

Story: (Wise Men)

Have video prepared to show (The Jesus Storybook DVD, Volume 3; Number 3). Children may sit at the table to watch and when it is over return to sit on the carpet or remain at the table (choice of the Kids Worship Volunteer). Ask children questions about what they saw in the video and talk about the 5 W's with them (Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How).

*Many of The Jesus Storybook Bible episodes are available on YouTube, or you can purchase from various retailers as a spiritual resource for your family!

Song and Movement: We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are, (*hold hands in a circle*)
Bearing gifts we traverse afar; (*raise arms up and down*)
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, (*go around the circle*)
Following yonder star; (*keep going around circle; stop and let go of each others hands*)

O star of wonder, star of light; (*"blinking hands"-think like flashes of light*)
Star with royal beauty bright, (*place pretend crown on head*)
Westward leading, still proceeding, (*hold hands and go around circle again*)
Guide us to they perfect light! (*stop; let go; and prayer hands to end*)

**There is a second verse but just stop and replay the 1st again*

Bible Verse Memory

Have the children do the following hand motions along with repeating the words after you, to help them learn the Bible Verse:

They bowed down:	bow
And worshipped him:	raise your hands in the sky
They gave him:	hold out your hands as though you are giving something
Gold:	move your fingers around as though something is twinkling
Incense and myrrh:	make a sniffing sound
Matthew 2:	hold up 2 fingers
11:	hold up all 10 fingers and then 1

Do this a few times with the children. Make it fun for them to do the motions and say the words. Involving them in active learning is essential for memorization at this age.

Dress Up

Gather things like sheets, blankets, towels, scarves, jewelry, etc. You may also want some empty shoe boxes. Children can cover their head with a sheet or blanket and put on some "expensive" jewelry or scarves. You can also let children decorate the shoe boxes and then place something inside that represents the precious gifts the Magi brought.

Play the "We 3 Kings" song and let them move around the room; you could even setup a house with cardboard boxes, sheets/pillows, etc as the home where Jesus was and have the wise men travel to it.

This is a fun and creative way to be as inventive as you want!

Giving and Receiving Gifts

Gift wrap a few different boxes in several sizes. Inside each box you should have one gift. Some gifts should be good and some funny (a lolly, one unmatched sock, a small toy, an empty toilet paper roll, etc.) Children can take turns opening the gifts until all are opened. Finish with one last box that contains a picture of Jesus. Discuss how that God gave the best gift.

Coloring

Have children go to the table and sit down to color. As they color continue conversations about the gospel of Jesus, how much he loves us, and how we can tell others about the good news of Jesus coming (this is a great time for them to ask questions or talk to each other); also feel free to turn on some music

*Coloring sheet included on last page 😊

Closing Time

Prayer Time:

During this time ask the children if there is anything they would like to have prayer for (have conversations about how we can talk to God, like a friend, about anything and he hears us always).

If children need assistance thinking of things try these questions:

What can we thank God for? (family, friends, church, home, food, sunshine, etc)

Who can we pray for? (family, friends, pets, neighbors, our church family, etc)

What do we need God's help with?

*Any other prompts that come to mind

Close in prayer with the children. The volunteer could start and then at the end have everyone say "Thank You God for today; bless all that we think, do, and say. Amen."

