

Gifts for Baby Jesus

Matthew 2:1-12; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 59-64



Do you like to get presents? Most people do. Did you know that Jesus likes presents too? A long time ago some men gave special gifts to Jesus. Maybe it was like this:

I see it, I see it!" The man looking into the night sky was suddenly very excited. "What do you think?" he asked the men with him. "It could be the sign we've been looking for," answered one of his friends. Together, the men talked about the new "star" they had been studying.

These men were Magi, men known in their country as honest and wise. Although they were not Jews, they had studied the Hebrew Scriptures and learned about a special star. That star meant it was time for the Messiah to be born. So when the bright new star appeared in the night sky, they rejoiced. They were sure it was the sign of the Messiah, the Saviour.

After much discussion, some of these wise men decided to follow the star. Traveling at night to keep the star in sight, the men journeyed for many days. They

kept studying the Scriptures as they went. And God's Holy Spirit guided them.

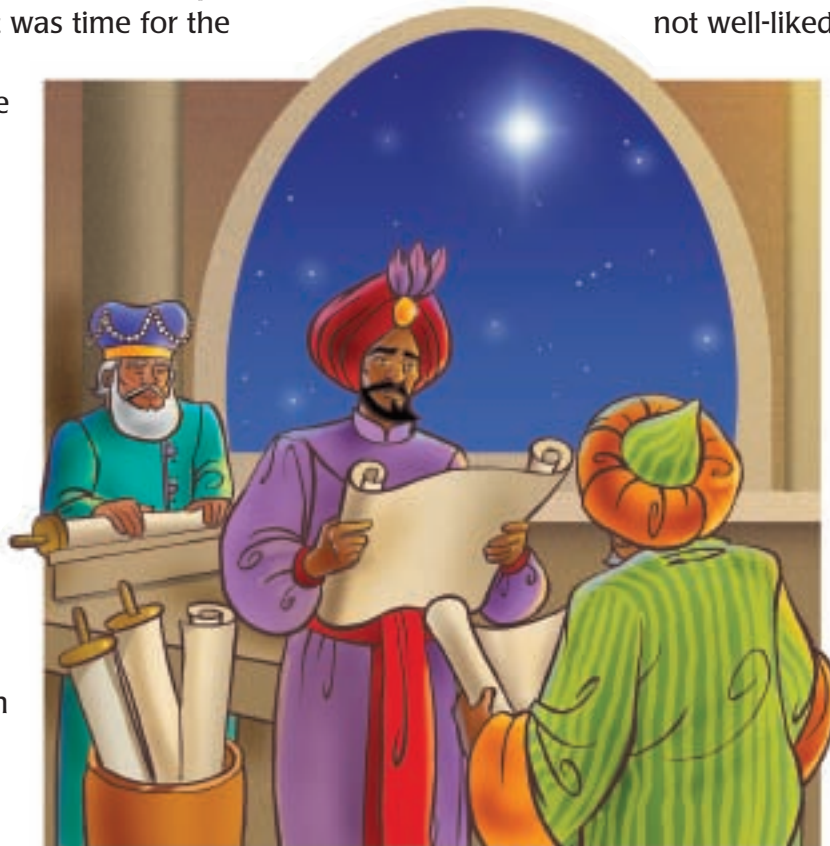
After many weeks of travel, the star stopped over Jerusalem. The wise men expected to find everyone talking about the birth of their new King. "Where is He who is born King of the Jews?" they asked. "We have seen His star and have come to worship Him." But strangely, no one seemed to know anything about it.

Before long, King Herod heard about the strangers and their questions. He wanted to know more, so he sent for them. "Sir, can you direct us to the Jewish king who has been born?" asked one of the men. "We have come to worship Him."

Now, Herod knew that he was not well-liked by his subjects.

The idea of a new king made him angry and jealous. But he pretended to be interested, so he could find out more. Before answering the men from the east, Herod questioned the Jewish priests and scribes. They reported that Scripture said the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

Herod then



The Message

We worship Jesus when we give gifts to Him.

Memory Verse

"They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him"

(Matthew 2:11, NIV).

told the wise men: "Go to Bethlehem and search for the child. And when you find Him, come and tell me. I want to worship Him too."

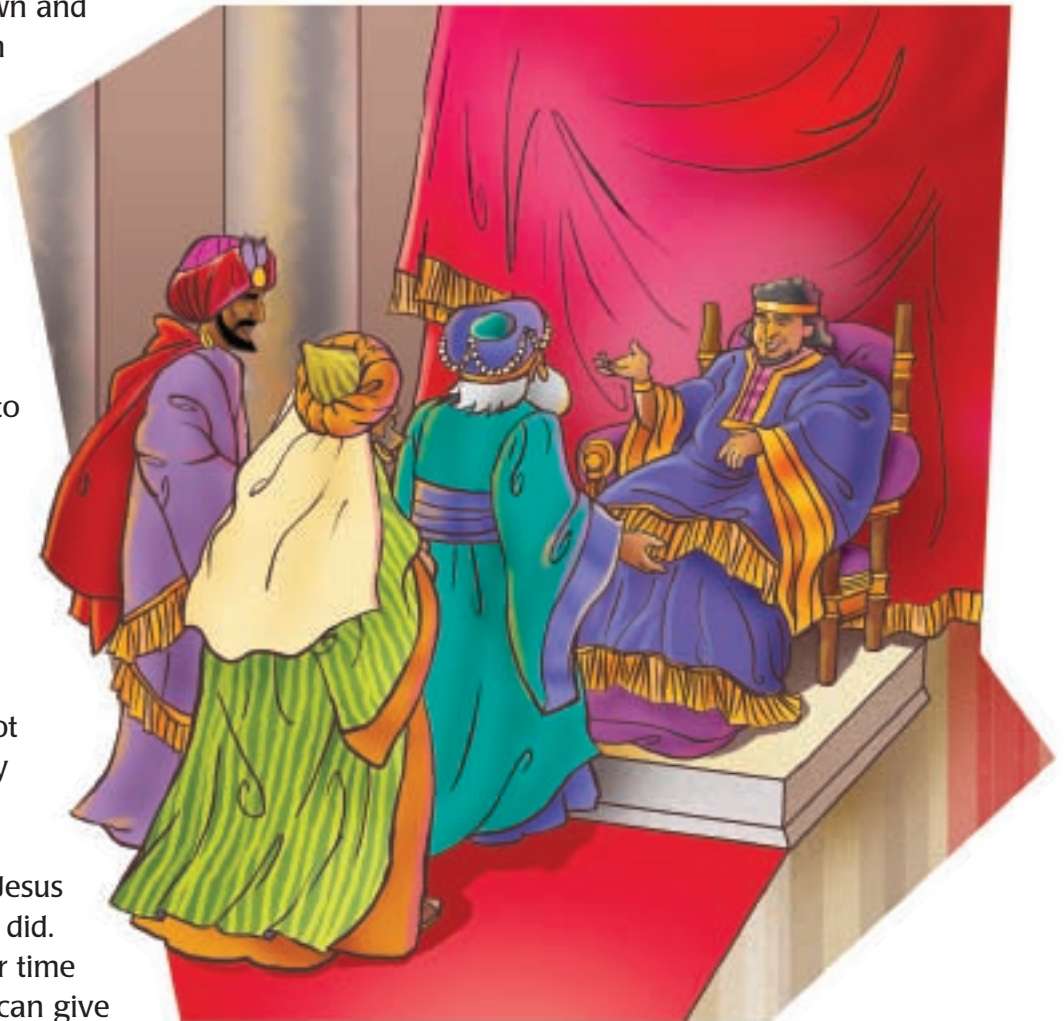
Soon the wise men arrived in Bethlehem. There, they found the place where the little family was staying. But no royal guard stood nearby. There was nothing at all to show the world that this child was special. They wondered, *Can this be the Messiah we have looked for?* At first it didn't seem possible. But when the wise men saw the baby, they knew! This Jesus truly was the Saviour!

And they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they gave their costly gifts to Mary and Joseph—gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Soon it was time to leave. The Magi planned to go back to Jerusalem to share their good news with King Herod. But in a dream, God told them not to go there. Wicked King Herod really wanted to harm the baby, not worship Him. So they went home another way.

We can worship Jesus just as the wise men did. We can give Him our time and our talents. We can give

gifts of money or other things. But most of all, we can give Him our hearts. What will your special gift of worship be for Jesus?



King Herod was already dying of a horrible disease when the Wise Men came to visit him.



S A B B A T H

DO For sundown worship today, sing some Christmas carols. Then read your lesson story together. When it is dark, go outside and find the brightest star in the eastern sky. Is this the star the wise men saw? How do you know? (Or look for the brightest light you can find. Is it as bright as the star the wise men saw?)

DO Teach the memory verse to your family. Talk about gifts your family might give to Jesus. Then thank Jesus for His gifts to you.

M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss the lesson story. Talk about the gifts the wise men brought. Ask your family to help you find the words *magi*, *frankincense*, and *myrrh* in a dictionary. Tell what each word means. What gift can you give Jesus today?

SHARE Share the heart you made in Sabbath School with someone. (Or make a heart and write the memory verse on it.) Tell them about the wise men. Talk about how you will give your heart (life) to Jesus. Pray for that person today.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ During worship, read Matthew 2:1-12 again today. Say your memory verse together. Make a list of gifts Jesus gave us by coming to earth. Then make a list of gifts we give to Jesus when we worship Him.

DO Talk about giving gifts to others at Christmas time. Think of something your family can give to help children who might not receive any gifts. Make a plan to do it. Ask Jesus to help you.

S U N D A Y

READ For worship read Matthew 2:1-12. Find Bethlehem on a map of Israel as it is today. Then look north and east of Israel and find the Euphrates River. The wise men probably came from a place near that river. Ask: About how far did the wise men travel? How long do you think it took? Sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" before prayer. Pray for people traveling.

DO Ask if you can help make some star-shaped cookies. Wrap some as a gift to share with neighbors. As you share, sing some carols, then tell about the gifts of the wise men. (Save some cookies for Friday night.)

T U E S D A Y

DO Ask an adult to bring some perfume or spices to worship. Review your lesson story, then have a smelling test. Ask each person to close their eyes. Hold one thing at a time under each person's nose. Have them guess what they smell. Ask: What do you think frankincense and myrrh smelled like?

DO Make some paper star-shaped ornaments. Hang them on your Christmas tree or in your windows. Sing about the wise men, then thank Jesus for stars in the night sky.



T H U R S D A Y

READ For worship today, read Matthew 2:13-18 together. What happened after the wise men left Bethlehem? Compare verse 18 to Jeremiah 31:15. Now read Matthew 2:19-23. Why didn't they go to Judea? In what town in Galilee did Jesus live as a child?

DRAW Use a white or yellow crayon on dark paper to draw a picture of the wise men following the star. Show your family as you tell them the lesson story. Say your memory verse together before prayer. Thank God for wisdom.



F R I D A Y

ASK Ask someone to help you make finger puppets. Or draw a simple face on three of your fingers to represent the Magi. For worship, act out the story with your puppets or fingers. At the end sing the song "We Three Kings" using the finger puppets. Thank Jesus for coming to earth.

DO Go outside and look at stars. Imagine what the angel star must have looked like. What would it be like to follow a star night after night? Why were the wise men so determined to worship the King?

SHARE When you go back inside, share a hot drink and some cookies.

Gifts for Baby Jesus

PUZZLE

Directions: Use the clues to find gifts that you can present to Jesus.

1. Across



1. Down

tall - l + e +



- a + s

2. Across



3. Across

