



Following the Star

Lesson Aim: To know the wise men followed a star.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Comes Near

THE WORD

Bible Story: Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

What He Has Done: God sent a star.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "They saw the star."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Glory to God in the highest!" Luke 2:14a

Unit 10: The God Who Comes Near			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Gabriel Visits Zechariah, Luke 1:11-22, 62-64	God sent His angel Gabriel to tell Zechariah the good news.	To know God gets believers ready for Christmas.
49	Advent 2: Gabriel and Mary, Luke 1:28-33	God sent His angel Gabriel to prepare Mary for the birth of Jesus.	To know the Lord is with us as He was with Mary.
50	Advent 3: Jesus Is Born, Luke 2:1-7	God gave us His Son, baby Jesus.	To know Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem.
51	Advent 4: An Angel Visits the Shepherds, Luke 2:8-16	God sent an angel to announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds.	To know God sent an angel to tell the shepherds about Jesus.
52	Following the Star, Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	God sent a star.	To know the wise men followed a star.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 95:1-6. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for all You have taught Your children this past year. Fill each of them with Your Spirit that they may seek to worship You as the wise men did. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a star
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "They saw the star."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Bring You Good News" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "His One and Only Son" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" Additional Song Suggestions: "Away in a Manger" "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 10, Lesson 52
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Matthew 2:10 Visual: "Bethlehem Star" craft sample
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Bethlehem Star	Sturdy yellow paper, assorted craft materials (stickers, foam shapes, sequins, yarn, paints, and paint brushes, etc.), craft stick, glue, tape, crayons or markers
		Game: Follow the Star	"Bethlehem Star" craft sample, flashlight
		Game: Where Is Baby Jesus?	Flashlight, small baby doll or picture of a baby
		Snack: Star Bright	Star-shaped cookies or crackers
	Circle of Prayer	None	
Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 10, Lesson 52 Color This Story: "The Wise Men Followed the Star"	
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	None
	Up to 10	Game: Traveling with Treasures	Three gift bags or lunch sacks tied closed with ribbon
	Up to 10	Game: Quiet Time	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News"
	Up to 10	Game: Memory Verse Echo	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about the birth of Jesus

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



They saw the star

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a sticker or stamp of a star. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a star remind you that the wise men followed the star to find Jesus. Today's Whisper Verse is "They saw the star."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "They saw the star."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

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|----------------------|--|
| "They" | Using the index finger on the right hand, point to several people. |
| "saw" | Making the letter "V" with the right hand, hold your hand up to your eyes. Move hand forward, away from your face. |
| "(the) star." | Extend your two index fingers and hold them together above your head. Raise and lower your two fingers alternatively while pointing up toward the sky. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "They saw the star," Matthew 2:10. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The God who comes near

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who comes near. He came near when He sent a star to lead the wise men to Jesus. The wise men wanted to bring Him their offerings. Let's start our Praise Time by bringing our offerings.

Play: “His One and Only Son” as background music while collecting the offering.

Our Whisper Verse for today is, “They saw the star.” Review the Whisper Verse with the sign language. **The star led the wise men to Jesus in Bethlehem. It is also called the city of David because it was his birthplace and early home. The wise men wanted to worship Jesus, just as the shepherds did. Let's sing of the good news that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.** Sing: “I Bring You Good News.”



Let's see if Delbert and Lello have heard about the wise men who followed the star to see baby Jesus. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 10, Lesson 52.



The wise men followed the star to see Jesus. Imagine that bright star as we march around the room. Let's pretend we are traveling on a long journey like the wise men did. Children march around the room as they sing “O Come, All Ye Faithful” or another favorite Christmas worship song.

What did the wise men bring to Jesus? (Their treasures.) **The best treasure we can give Jesus is our love for Him. Let's sing a song to tell Him we love Him. Let's ask Jesus to always be near each one of us.** Sing: “Away in a Manger” or another favorite Christmas worship song.



God sent a star

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

**With my eyes on my teacher;
My mouth quiet as can be,
I will listen to hear,
How God loves you and me.**

Point to eyes.
Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
Cup hand around ear.
Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned about the angel who brought good news to the shepherds. Today, we will hear about the wise men who followed a star to find Jesus. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Mathew 2:10.

WATCH THE WORD: MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display the "Bethlehem Star" craft sample. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story picture, or any related picture.

- **When Jesus was born in Bethlehem,**
- **The wise men wanted to worship Him.**
- **They traveled very, very far.**
- **They found Him by following the star.**

- **To Bethlehem, it led their way.**
- **It stopped at the place where Jesus stayed.**
- **The wise men, they were full of joy.**
- **They bowed down and worshiped the little boy.**

- **Their treasures to Jesus they did bring.**
- **They brought Him gifts fit for a king.**
- **Incense, myrrh, and gold they gave,**
- **For He was the King who came to save.**



How did the wise men feel when the star stopped over the place where Jesus was? (Happy, filled with joy.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Matthew 2:10 from the teacher's Bible.

What did the wise men see up in the sky? (A star.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer.** Let's say it together, **"They saw the star."** Include sign language or hand motions.



The wise men followed the star

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: BETHLEHEM STAR

Purpose: Children create a star to remember the wise men who followed the star to Jesus.

Supplies: Sturdy yellow paper, assorted craft materials (stickers, foam shapes, sequins, yarn, paints, and paint brushes, etc.), craft stick, glue, tape, crayons or markers

Prepare: Cut one large star from sturdy yellow paper. On one side of the star, print:

“They saw the star.” Matthew 2:10

Directions:

1. Decorate the front of the star with assorted craft materials. Children may choose to draw the three wise men.
2. Tape the star to the craft stick.

Craft Discussion:

- **Let’s whisper our Whisper Verse together.** (“They saw the star.”)
- **Who saw the star?** (The wise men.)
- **Where did the star lead them?** (To the place where Jesus was.)
- **Who made the stars?** (God.)
- **What is your favorite thing about stars?** (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: FOLLOW THE STAR

Purpose: Children remember the story by following a star around the room.

Supplies: "Bethlehem Star" craft sample, flashlight

Teacher Tip: If possible, allow the "star" to lead the "wise men" out of the classroom and down nearby hallways to symbolize the wise men's long journey from the east to Bethlehem.

Let's imagine what it was like to follow the star!

Directions:

1. Choose a child to lead. Give him or her the "Bethlehem Star" craft sample.
2. The remaining children "follow the star" by lining up behind the child with the star.
3. The child with the star holds the star high and leads everyone in marching around the room.
4. If a flashlight is available, the teacher dims the lights and points the flashlight at the Bethlehem Star to make it shine.
5. Play until each child has a turn as the leader carrying the Bethlehem Star.

GAME: WHERE IS BABY JESUS?

Purpose: The star's light (flashlight) helps children find the hidden baby.

Supplies: Flashlight, small baby doll or picture of a baby

Let's pretend we are the wise men following the star's light to find baby Jesus.

Directions:

1. Divide the children into groups of 2 to 4 wise men.
2. All the children close their eyes as the teacher or a child hides the baby doll (or picture of a baby.)
3. The teacher aims and moves the light around the room as the first group of wise men follow the light.
4. After a short time, the teacher focuses the light over the place where the doll is hidden until the wise men find it.
5. Repeat steps 2-4 for each group of wise men. Each time, find a new hiding place for the doll.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: STAR BRIGHT

Purpose: To remember the story of the wise men following the star to Jesus.

Snack Suggestion: Star-shaped cookies or crackers

What did the wise men follow to find Jesus? (A star.) Our snack is star-shaped to remember the star the wise men followed.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** ("They saw the star.")
 - **What did the wise men do when they saw the star?** (They followed it to Jesus.)
 - **The wise men brought their treasures to Jesus. Do you remember what their gifts were?** (Gifts for a king: gold, incense, and myrrh.)
 - **What gift would you like to give Jesus?** (Children respond.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Bethlehem Star" craft. Place it high in your room so that when you see it, you can remember the wise men who saw the star.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about what gifts you can bring to Jesus.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "The Wise Men Follow the Star." Discuss the Bible Story and play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Bring You Good News," as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **When Jesus was born in Bethlehem,** (Rock baby in arms.)
- **The wise men wanted to worship Him.** (Raise palms in worship.)
- **They traveled very, very far.** (Walk in place.)
- **They found Him by following the star.** (Point to the star.)

- **To Bethlehem, it led their way.** (Walk in place.)
- **It stopped at the place where Jesus stayed.** (Stop walking.)
- **The wise men, they were full of joy.** (Smile.)
- **They bowed down and worshiped the little boy.** (Bow head and fold hands in prayer.)

- **Their treasures to Jesus they did bring.** (Hide imaginary treasure in hand.)
- **They brought Him gifts fit for a king.** (Open hand to show the treasure.)
- **Incense, myrrh, and gold they gave,** (Make giving gesture.)
- **For He was the King who came to save.** (Point up to heaven.)

GAME: TRAVELING WITH TREASURES

Purpose: Children carry treasures on a camel's back to remember the wise men's journey.

Supplies: Three gift bags or lunch sacks tied closed with ribbon

Let's pretend we are the wise men traveling with treasures for Jesus. Each bag stands for one of the three treasures the wise men brought Jesus: gold, incense, and myrrh (perfume).

Directions:

1. Choose three children to be the camels. The camels crawl on their hands and knees.
2. Divide the remaining children into three groups of wise men (one group per camel).
3. Each group places their treasure bag on the back of their camel.
4. As camels crawl on their hands and knees across the room, the wise men work to keep the treasure from falling off the camel's back.

Teacher Tip: Older children may enjoy this game as a camel race to see which team can get their treasure bag to Jesus first without it falling off the camel's back. If it falls off, you may choose to have the team put the bag back on the camel's back and keep going or have the team start back at the starting line.

GOT TIME *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Glory to God in the highest!" Luke 2:14a

GAME: QUIET TIME

Purpose: To take a moment of silence to think about God's goodness.

Supplies: Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News"

Zechariah could not say a word for about 300 days. Since he was not talking, he had plenty of time to think about God and to listen. Let's take a minute to be quiet and hear what the angel said to the shepherds about baby Jesus.

Directions:

1. Invite children to get in a comfortable position either by laying their heads on a table or by resting on the floor.
2. **Listen for the words: "Glory to God in the highest." Glory is the praise and thanks we give to God. Glory to God in the highest means we give our biggest and highest praise and thanks to Him.**
3. **It is good to take time to be quiet and think about God. Let's be quiet and think about God while we listen to our Bible Memory Verse Song.** Play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News." Children rest quietly as they listen.

GAME: MEMORY VERSE ECHO

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Glory to God in the highest means we give our biggest and highest praise and thanks to God. Let's echo our praises to God.

Directions:

1. Divide your class into three groups.
2. Assign one group to be the loud echo, one the regular echo, and one the whisper echo.
3. Shout the verse and have each group echo your words, the loud group first, then the regular voice group, and then finally the whisper echo.
4. Repeat a few times.
5. If you have time, reassign which group does each kind of echo and play again.

GOT TIME *continued...*



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about the birth of Jesus.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 10, Lesson 52: Following the Star

PONDER! Gather your family to read Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11. Discuss what it is like to take long trips. How did the wise men feel when the star finally stopped? Talk about what kind of treasure you would like to give Jesus.

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for the star that led the wise men to You. Help us be like the wise men who wanted to worship You and bring You their treasures. Amen."

PLAY! Create a sparkly star. Now hold it up high and lead your family on the wise men's journey all through your home or neighborhood. End your journey by gathering around a Bible and reading Matthew 2:9-11.

Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Luke 2:14a

"Glory to God in the highest."