



Recognizing the King: The Magi and Herod

Lesson Aim: To recognize God's presence
and leading in our lives.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Came to Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Matthew 2:1-3, 7-15

What He has done: God led the Magi to Jesus.

Key Verse: Matthew 2:11

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Job 19:27

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ,
and He will reign for ever and ever."

"KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." Revelation 11:15b; 19:16b

Unit 10: The King Who Came To Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Announcing the King, Luke 1:28-33, 37-38	God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary to announce the coming of Jesus as King.	To know we can bring the message to others.
49	Advent 2: Naming the King, Matthew 1:17-23	God sent the angel to Joseph.	To know Jesus came to save His people from their sins.
50	Advent 3: Birthplace of the King, Luke 2:1-7	God chose Bethlehem as the birthplace of King Jesus.	To understand why Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
51	Advent 4: Worshiping the King, Luke 2:8-20	God led the shepherds to see and worship King Jesus.	To understand worship as a lifestyle.
52	Recognizing the King: The Magi and Herod, Matthew 2:1-3, 7-15	God led the Magi to Jesus.	To recognize God's presence and leading in our lives.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Hebrews 12:1-3. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the way You show Yourself to us. Help us see You in the Scriptures, in other people, and in the world You created. Please show Yourself to the children today. Amen."

WHAT ABOUT SANTA? Many cultures incorporate the story of Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) into their family traditions at Christmas. Many young children are very excited about this tradition. To honor all parents, our role as Bible teachers is not to address (validate or invalidate) their family traditions, but to redirect their focus to celebrate the gift of God's Son.

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Bible Story Charades	Index cards, pens or pencils, two bags or boxes, timer
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Advent wreath (See GOT TIME?) Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "King of Kings" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Bring You Good News" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Angels We Have Heard On High," "What Child Is This," "Away in a Manger," "Joy to the World," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "We Three Kings" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Christmas—Worship Jamz Shout Praises Kids Christmas—Integrity Media
		Worship Scripture Reading: Isaiah 6:1-3	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 52 King City Chronicles script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Matthew 2:1-3, 7-15	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, Cotton ball or fabric scrap, frankincense or myrrh oil, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Job 19:27	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—"I Will See God" bookmark, W ³ s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "King of Kings," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Knowing Our King	Alphabet-shaped snack
	Up to 10	Game: I Spy With My Little Eye	Items already visible in the room
	Up to 10	Craft: Stained Glass Window	Sturdy black paper, several colors of tissue paper, wax paper, scissors, tape, glue or glue sticks, dark permanent markers
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Crown Toss	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, two scepters (stick or tube decorated with foil or paint), two crowns (toy or paper)
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Royal Musical Chairs	One chair per child, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "King of Kings," CD player
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is one time when you felt that God was with you?

GAME: BIBLE STORY CHARADES

Purpose: Children will act out Bible stories they have learned in Kings & Kingdoms.

Supplies: Index cards or slips of paper, bag or box, timer

Prepare: Write the names of favorite Bible stories studied this year on slips of paper. Write enough so you will have at least one for each pair of children. Place the index cards or slips of paper in a bag or box.

Below are examples from twelve of the 52 stories studied this year in Judges–Esther and Matthew–John.

God makes Samson strong.

God helps David kill Goliath.

Josiah reads the Scriptures to the people.

Nehemiah rebuilds the city wall.

King Xerxes holds out the scepter to

Queen Esther.

The shepherds worship baby Jesus.

Jesus is baptized.

Jesus calls His disciples to follow Him.

Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan.

Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Jesus washes the disciples' feet.

Jesus rises from the tomb.

Today, is our final day of studying the kings and kingdoms of the Bible. We've learned about the life of King Jesus and about the judges, kings, and other leaders of God's people. In our game, let's act out some of our favorite Bible stories. As we review, think about what we learned about God from each story.

Directions:

1. Form two teams. Children on each team form pairs.
2. Choose one team to go first. One pair from that team pulls out a card from the bag.
3. The pair silently acts out the story as other members of their team guess the story.
4. Give the team one minute to guess. If they guess correctly, they get one point.
5. Teams alternate turns until each pair has a turn.
6. The team with the most points at the end wins.



The King who came to us

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 music as children move to the designated area.



We worship the King who came to us. God helps us find and recognize His Son, Jesus. To recognize someone means to know who they are. We worship King Jesus because we know He is God's Son, our Savior and King. Today, if we look for Jesus, we will not find Him in a manger as the shepherds did or beneath the Bethlehem star as the Magi (the wise men) did. We cannot see Him as the Magi did because He is in heaven. But we can still see He is with us because of what He is doing in our lives. Let's thank Him for that by giving our offering. Play: "We Three Kings" as background music while collecting the offering.



Imagine what it would be like to see the Lord with your own eyes as we listen to the way Isaiah describes Him when he saw the Lord in a vision. Read Isaiah 6:1-3.



Sing Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "King of Kings." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on seeking Christ.



Perform King City Chronicles script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 10, Lesson 52.



The Magi and Herod

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned the shepherds spread the word about baby Jesus. What did they do after they saw Him in the Bethlehem manger? (They praised God for all they had seen and heard.) If a Bible Timeline is available, point out Jesus on Earth (Circa 1-33 A.D.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

In today's story, the men traveling from the east following the star were called Magi. They were most likely wise scientists who studied the stars. Many people call these Magi "the wise men." They wanted to see Jesus. God led them there by a star. They traveled to Jerusalem and then finally arrived in Bethlehem. If a map is available, point out Jerusalem and Bethlehem in Israel. Let's read about it and find out who else wanted to see Jesus.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Matthew 2:1-3, 7-15. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Matthew 2:11.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Read Matthew 2:1-3, 7-15.



Seeing God **THE WAY**

Additional Supplies: Cotton ball or fabric scrap, frankincense or myrrh oil

What did the Magi call Jesus? (King of the Jews.) **Although they were not Jewish, they would have studied the Scriptures to know the star meant the king of the Jews had been born. God used the Scriptures and the star to help them see Jesus. Why did the Magi want to see Jesus?** (To worship Him.) **Why did Herod say he wanted the wise men to report to him when they found baby Jesus?** (So he could worship Him.) **Why do you think Herod was so upset about the birth of Jesus?** (He would have worried baby Jesus would grow up to have more power.) **According to the angel, what was the true reason Herod wanted to find baby Jesus?** (To kill him.)

Where did they find baby Jesus? (In a house with his mother, Mary.) **The Magi probably arrived months after baby Jesus was born. He was no longer in a manger; He was in a house in Bethlehem. What did the Magi give Jesus?** (Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.) **Gold and the sweet smell of the incense were gifts fit for a king.** If available, dab a cotton ball or fabric scrap with a drop of frankincense or myrrh oil. Allow the children to smell it. **What can you give as an offering to Jesus?** (Children respond.)

To flee from Herod, where did Joseph take Jesus and Mary? (Egypt.) **When the angel warned Joseph about Herod, he could see God was protecting his family. When have you known that God was warning, leading, or protecting you?** (Children respond.)

The Magi followed the star to find Jesus. King Herod sent the Magi to Bethlehem because, in the Scriptures (the Bible), the prophet said Christ would come from Bethlehem. God uses creation, the Scriptures, and our experiences to help us see Him in our lives. How has God shown you that He loves you? (Through the love of others, etc.) **How has God shown you He is powerful?** (Through His works of nature, miracles, etc.) **When have you seen something in God's creation or read something in the Bible that helped you come closer to God or know Him better?** (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

More than 1000 years before the Magi saw Jesus, a man named Job knew one day he would see God standing upon the earth. Even though we cannot see God face to face right now, the Bible promises we will see God one day, too. We will see Jesus when He comes back to earth to gather all those who believe in Him. Let's see what Job says about that in the Bible.



FIND IT FIRST > **Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Job 19:27. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Job 19:27.

Although we can't see Jesus today with our eyes, His Holy Spirit lives in the hearts of all believers. He guides us and points us to Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us see that God is with us and that He is at work in our lives. When have you seen God working in your life? **(Children respond.)** When have you seen God is with you? **(Children respond.)** This week, ask God to help you see Him in new ways.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a Bible bookmark. It says, "I Will See God." Place it in your Bible to mark a story that helps you see who God is and what He has done. Look for ways for your heart to see God in the Bible, in the love of others, and in God's creation during the coming year.

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #52. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the Magi following the star to Bethlehem.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, "King of Kings," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: KNOWING OUR KING

Purpose: Children eat a snack as they consider Bible stories that have helped them know Jesus.

Snack Suggestion: Alphabet-shaped snack

The Magi and Herod knew where to find Jesus because the Scriptures said he would come from Bethlehem. We have been studying the Scriptures, too. The Scriptures is another name for the Bible. Let's eat a snack of letters to think about how the Bible helps us know who Jesus is.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What has the Bible showed you about Jesus?"**

GAME: I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE

Purpose: To help children understand the concept of hearing an object described and recognizing it.

Supplies: This game describes items already visible in classroom, such as a clock, someone's shirt or shoes, a picture, etc.

Do you know what it means to recognize someone? (Respond.) It means to know who someone is. The Magi recognized Jesus was the King of the Jews. In this game, I'll describe something or someone. Then you will look around the room to see if you recognize what I have just described.

Directions:

1. Teacher says, **"I spy with my little eye ..."** to describe an item visible in the classroom by its shape, color, size, etc.
2. Children take turns guessing what the item is.
3. The child who guesses correctly may take a turn describing a different item.
4. Continue the game as time allows.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: STAINED GLASS WINDOW

Purpose: Children create a stained glass window to help them remember to look for God throughout the coming year.

Supplies: Sturdy black paper, several colors of tissue paper, wax paper, scissors, tape, glue or glue sticks, dark permanent markers

In today's story, the Magi saw Jesus with their own eyes. The Bible promises that one day we will see God with our own eyes. Until then, we can see Him with our hearts. We can see who God is and what He has done when we read the Bible. We can see Him with our hearts when we look at all He has created. We can see His love and kindness through the love and kindness of others. There are many way our hearts can see God.

As we work on our craft, let's talk about ways we've seen God this year. Then, take home your craft and hang it in a window to help you and your family remember to look for ways to see God everywhere, every day! While the children are working on their crafts, lead a discussion about the ways the children have seen who God is and what He has done.

Directions:

1. Cut a cross or any shape out of the center of a piece of sturdy black paper to create a frame.
2. Cut a piece of wax paper so it is slightly smaller than the sturdy black frame.
3. Glue different colors of small pieces of tissue paper onto the wax paper. Allow it to dry.
4. Tape the tissue-covered wax paper to the back of paper frame so the tissue paper shows through the frame.
5. Write: **"I will see God."** over the tissue-covered wax paper with a dark permanent marker.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ,
and He will reign for ever and ever."

"KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." Revelation 11:15b; 19:16b

GAME: CROWN TOSS

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

Supplies: Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, two scepters (stick or tube decorated with foil or paint), two crowns (toy or paper)

Who does the world belong to? (God the Father and Jesus Christ.) **The world belongs to God because He made it. Jesus is our King who will reign forever. He is greater than any other king! Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse by tossing crowns onto a king's royal scepter.**

Directions:

1. Form two teams of equal number. Have each team stand in a line.
2. Give a scepter to the first child in each line. Have those two children stand about 10 feet away, facing their team and holding the scepter in front of them.
3. Give a crown to the next child in each line.
4. On your signal, the children in each line toss the crowns, aiming for the team's scepter.
5. If a child gets the crown onto the scepter, the next child takes his or her turn. If a child misses the scepter, give him or her a second chance. If the child misses it a second time, the team must stop and say the Bible Memory Verse together before the next child's turn.
6. Once a child has taken a turn, he or she sits behind the team line.
7. The goal is to be the first team to have all their players seated.

GAME: ROYAL MUSICAL CHAIRS

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

Supplies: One chair per child, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "King of Kings," CD player

Directions:

1. Children say Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse together. Practice several times.
2. Begin with one less chair than the number of children. Place the chairs in two lines, back to back with the seats facing out. Have the children stand around the chairs.
3. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as the children walk around the chairs.
4. When you stop the song, each child tries to sit in a seat. One child should be left standing.
5. The child left standing can stay in the game if he or she recites the Bible Memory Verse from memory. (You may choose to help if he or she has just begun to learn the verse.) If the child can not recite the Bible Memory Verse, he or she is out of the game. Remove one chair and play again. If the child can recite the Bible Memory Verse, leave all the chairs and play again.
6. Continue playing several rounds to give more children a chance to say the Bible Memory Verse.
7. Give special responsibilities to children who are out of the game, such as helping to remove chairs or starting and stopping the music.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Judges through Esther. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Nehemiah (Circa 430 B.C.) What did Nehemiah ask King Artaxerxes? (He asked for permission to go rebuild Jerusalem's city wall.) How did Nehemiah use the families of Jerusalem to rebuild the city wall? (He gave each family a part of the wall to rebuild.) What was Nehemiah's plan for defending the families against the enemy as they built the wall? (He prayed and posted guards. He had the workers carry supplies in one hand and a weapon in the other.)

Esther (Circa 470 B.C.) Who did King Xerxes, the king of Persia, choose as his queen? (Esther.) What did Mordecai ask Queen Esther to do? (To ask the king to save God's people.) How did the king show Queen Esther that it was safe for her to come and talk to him? (He extended his scepter for her to touch.) Did the king agree to Queen Esther's request? (Yes.)

Jesus on Earth (Circa 1–33 A.D.) After the days of Queen Esther had passed, God sent no messages to His people for 400 years. Then, when the time was right, He sent His angel to announce the birth of King Jesus to a teenage girl. What was her name? (Mary.) Then, God sent an angel to Joseph telling him to name the baby Jesus. What did the angel say Jesus would do? (Jesus would "save His people from their sins.") Where was baby Jesus born? (In a manger in Bethlehem.) What did the shepherds do after they saw baby Jesus in the manger? (They told everyone what the angel had said about Him. They went back to their fields praising God.) What did the Magi do when they saw Jesus? (They worshiped Him and gave Him gifts.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Judges through Esther:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 card for Kings & Kingdoms Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Judges – Esther: Deborah (Circa 1350 B.C.) > Gideon (Circa 1250 B.C.) > Samson (Circa 1150 B.C.) > Ruth > Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.) > Saul (Circa 1050 B.C.) > David (Circa 1020 B.C.) > Solomon (Circa 970 B.C.) > Josiah (Circa 640 B.C.) > Ezra (Circa 500 B.C.) > Esther (Circa 470 B.C.) > Nehemiah (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)

Teacher Tip: To view Bible Timeline and lessons from Genesis through Joshua, see Year One, God of Wonders Lessons 22-47.