



# Giving to the King: The Wise Men

Lesson Aim: To know we can give our treasures to Jesus.

## THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The King Who Came to Us

## THE WORD

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

What He Has Done: God showed baby Jesus to the wise men.

## THE WAY

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son." John 3:16a

Unit 10: The King Who Came to Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Announcing the King, Luke 1:26-33	God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary.	To know God sent His Son as our King.
49	Advent 2: Naming the King, Matthew 1:18, 20-21	God sent the angel to tell Joseph to name the baby Jesus.	To know Jesus is the name of God's Son, our King.
50	Advent 3: Birthplace of the King, Luke 2:1-7	God chose Bethlehem as the birthplace of King Jesus.	To know Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem.
51	Advent 4: Worshiping The King, Luke 2:8-20	God led the shepherds to see and worship King Jesus.	To praise God for sending King Jesus to us.
52	Giving to the King: The Wise Men, Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	God showed baby Jesus to the wise men.	To know we can give our treasures to Jesus.

## 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.



**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Welcome</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a treasure chest or gems
		<b>Coloring Center:</b> Giving to the King	Coloring pages of the wise men, star sticker, crayons or markers
		<b>Play-Dough Center:</b> Following the Star	Play-dough, Christmas cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		<b>Music Center:</b> The Journey	Musical instruments, Christmas praise music
	<b>Nativity Center:</b> The Wise Men Came	Nativity set	
	Up to 5	<b>Prepare for Worship</b>	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. <b>Additional Song Suggestions:</b> "Away in a Manger" "Go Tell It on the Mountain" "Joy to the World" "Silent Night"	Praise music, optional: musical instruments <b>Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "His One and Only Son" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Give Thanks to the Lord" "I Bring You Good News" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 10, Lesson 52
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Matthew 2:11 Visual: Picture of the Bible story, nativity set, paper star, tape
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Gift Banner for Jesus	Wide ribbon, Christmas wrapping paper, sturdy yellow paper, crayons or markers, yarn, tape
		<b>Game:</b> Find Baby Jesus	Baby doll wrapped in cloth, sturdy yellow paper
		<b>Game:</b> Traveling with Treasures	Three lunch sacks, ribbon, optional: stickers
	<b>Snack:</b> Tasty Treasures	Snack in a gift bag	
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's: Unit 10, Lesson 52
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Hop Around the World	Globe or picture of the world
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> I Bring You Good News!	None
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about the events surrounding Jesus' birth

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The King who came to us

# THE WELCOME

## 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 stamp or sticker of a treasure chest or gems. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of treasure help you remember the wise men saw baby Jesus and gave their treasures to Him.**

**Teacher's Note:** These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

## COLORING CENTER: GIVING TO THE KING

### SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of the wise men, star sticker, crayons or markers

### DO

Children color and attach a star sticker to their picture as they talk about today's story.

### TALK ABOUT

**The wise men traveled from far away to see baby Jesus. They followed a special star to find the baby.** Attach star sticker. **The wise men brought Jesus special treasures. One treasure we can give Jesus is our love. How can we show Jesus we love Him?** (Read the Bible, go to church, sing praise songs, share, help others, be kind, etc.)

## PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: FOLLOWING THE STAR

### SUPPLIES

Play-dough, Christmas cookie cutters, play-dough tools

### DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about the wise men following the star. Encourage children to make stars with the play-dough.

### TALK ABOUT

**When Jesus was born, God put a very special star in the sky above the place where Jesus lay. Wise men from far away saw the star and came to worship Him. How do you think the wise men felt when they found baby Jesus?** (Children respond.) **Would you have liked to see the baby Jesus?** (Children respond.)

# THE WELCOME *continued...*

## MUSIC CENTER: THE JOURNEY

### SUPPLIES

Musical instruments, Christmas praise music

### DO

Children travel like the wise men did by pretending to ride camels around the room. Play Christmas praise music. Periodically stop the music. Instruct the children to stop when the music stops. Play as long as you like.

### TALK ABOUT

**Let's pretend to travel to see baby Jesus like the wise men did on their camels.** Show the children how to pretend to ride a camel. **When the music stops, freeze right where you are. When the music starts again, you may continue on your journey to see the baby King.**

## NATIVITY CENTER: THE WISE MEN CAME

### SUPPLIES

Nativity set

### DO

Children help tell the story of the wise men with the nativity set.

### TALK ABOUT

Set up all of the nativity set except the wise men (and camels, if you have them). **It took the wise men a long time to find baby Jesus because they lived very far away. A special star led them to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Let's pretend we are the wise men coming from a far away land.** Move the wise men (and camels) from far away toward the manger. Use some of the talking points below.

- **Have you ever taken a long trip? What did you take with you?**
- **What do you think the wise men needed for their long journey?**
- **How do you think they felt when they saw the baby Jesus?**
- **How would you feel if you saw the Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus?**

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## PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

**It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away.** Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

### BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com))

<b>"God</b>	Open right hand (fingers together and palm facing left) moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
<b>so loved</b>	Fists closed, both arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
<b>the world</b>	Both W-handshapes (Extend middle three fingers, touch pinky to thumb) circle around each other.
<b>that He gave His</b>	(gave) With thumb touching the fingers, the hand moves forward away from body.
<b>one and only Son."</b>	(Son) The closed fist touches the forehead, then the hand opens as it comes down and is cradled in the opposite arm (palm open).
<b>John 3:16a</b>	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



# The King who came to us

## THE WORSHIP

**Supplies:** Praise music, optional: musical instruments

**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.



**Who remembers why we celebrate Christmas?** (Jesus' birth.) **God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, because He loves us so much.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to us. Help us to show You our love by giving You our best. Amen.**



**Jesus' birth was a miracle. He brought joy to the world. We can bring joy to Jesus by praising His name.** Sing: "I Bring You Good News."

**The wise men brought their best gifts to baby Jesus. Let's give our offering to King Jesus and celebrate the day He came to us.** Sing: "Silent Night" while collecting the offering.



**Do you think our friend Delbert knows the story of the wise men?** (Children respond.) Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 10, Lesson 52.



**The wise men knew how important baby Jesus would be to the world. That reminds me of our Bible Memory Verse. Let's say it together.** Practice a few times together.

<p><b>"God</b></p> <p><b>so loved</b></p> <p><b>the world</b></p> <p><b>that He gave His</b></p> <p><b>one and only Son."</b></p> <p><b>John 3:16a</b></p>	<p>Open right hand (fingers together and palm facing left) moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.</p> <p>Fists closed, both arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest. Both W-handshapes (Extend middle three fingers, touch pinky to thumb) circle around each other.</p> <p>(gave) With the thumb touching the fingers, the hand moves forward away from the body.</p> <p>(Son) The closed fist touches the forehead, then the hand opens as it comes down and is cradled in the opposite arm (palm open).</p> <p>Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.</p>
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Sing: "His One and Only Son."



The wise men worshiped Jesus

## THE WORD

**Supplies:** Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Matthew 2:11, picture of the Bible story, nativity set (hide baby Jesus before Bible Time begins), paper star, tape

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

<b>With my eyes on my teacher;</b>	Point to eyes.
<b>My mouth quiet as can be,</b>	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
<b>I will listen to hear,</b>	Cup hand around ear.
<b>How God loves you and me.</b>	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

**Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears.** Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

**Prepare:** Set out nativity set (at least Mary and Joseph). Hide baby Jesus before Bible Time begins. Tape the paper star above the place where baby Jesus is hidden.

**Who can tell me what happened Christmas day?** (Baby Jesus was born.) Point to the place where baby Jesus should be. Act surprised that the baby Jesus is missing. **The baby Jesus from our nativity set is missing! Can you all help me find the baby Jesus?** After they've looked for a short time, point out the star. Suggest that it may help them find the baby Jesus.

Have the child who finds the baby Jesus return it to the nativity set. **Our missing baby Jesus reminds me of today's story. Wise men wanted to find baby Jesus so they could see and worship Him. Let's find out how they found the baby.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Matthew 2:11.



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

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **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 baby 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.**

**What did the wise men follow to find baby Jesus?** (The star.) **What did the wise men give baby Jesus?** (Their treasures.)



Giving treasures to Jesus

## 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: GIFT BANNER FOR JESUS**

**Purpose:** To remind the children of the story of the wise men who worshiped baby Jesus.

**Supplies:** Wide ribbon, Christmas wrapping paper, sturdy yellow paper, crayons or markers, yarn, tape

**Prepare:** Cut a 10-inch length of ribbon. Draw and cut out the shape of a crown from the sturdy yellow paper to fit on top of the ribbon. On the crown, print:

**The Wise Men**

**Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11**

Punch a hole through the top of the crown. Cut a 5-inch length of yarn. Cut (3) 2-inch x 4-inch rectangles from Christmas wrapping paper for gift boxes. Fold them in half.

**Optional:** Sturdy colored paper may be substituted for the wide ribbon and the Christmas wrapping paper.

**The wise men gave their treasures to baby Jesus. Imagine what three gifts you would have given baby Jesus if you had been there when the wise men gave their gifts to Him.**

#### **Directions:**

1. On the inside of each gift box, children draw a gift they would like to give to Jesus. Optional: If you have time, write the name of the gift under each drawing.
2. Tape the crown to the top of the ribbon.
3. Loop the yarn through the hole in the crown and knot it for a banner hanger.
4. Tape the back of one half of each gift in a line under the crown and down the ribbon.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **Who did the wise men look for?** (Baby Jesus.)
- **Did the wise men find baby Jesus?** (Yes.)
- **What did the wise men follow to find baby Jesus?** (A star.)
- **What did the wise men give baby Jesus?** (Treasures, gifts, etc.)
- **What gifts would you like to give baby Jesus?** Children show and describe the pictures they drew on their gift boxes.

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: FIND BABY JESUS**

**Purpose:** Children crown baby Jesus to remember the wise men's search for King Jesus.

**Supplies:** Baby doll wrapped in cloth, sturdy yellow paper

**Prepare:** From a strip of sturdy yellow paper, cut the shape of a doll-size crown. Tape the strip in a circle to fit the doll's head.

**The wise men searched for baby Jesus because they wanted to worship the baby king. God sent a star to lead them. They found baby Jesus and gave Him their treasures.**

### **Directions:**

1. Hide the baby doll somewhere in the room when the children are not looking.
2. **First, we will look for baby Jesus. Then, we will put the crown on baby Jesus' head.**
3. Give the crown to one child in the center of the room.
4. The other children search the room for the baby.
5. The child who finds the baby doll, brings it to the child with the crown who then puts the crown on the baby's head.
6. Play again, letting other children hold and place the crown each time you play.

## **GAME: TRAVELING WITH TREASURES**

**Purpose:** Children travel with treasures to remember the wise men's journey.

**Supplies:** Three lunch sacks, ribbon, optional: stickers

**Prepare:** On three lunch sacks, write or attach stickers of things children can praise God for, such as Christmas, Jesus' love, family, friends, teachers, animals, flowers, trees, stars, the sun, etc. Tie each sack closed with a 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 (spices), and myrrh (perfume). Our praise is a treasure to Jesus. What would you like to praise Him for? (Children respond.)** Discuss some of the stickers or things written on the bags.

**Let's pretend to travel by camel, like the wise men did, and bring our praise treasures to Jesus.**

### **Directions:**

1. Choose three children to be camels. 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 the camels crawl on their hands and knees across the room, the wise men work to keep the treasure from falling off the back of the camel.
5. Play again allowing other children to be the camels.



# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: TASTY TREASURES**

**Purpose:** Children enjoy a snack reminding them of the treasures the wise men gave to baby Jesus.

**Snack Suggestion:** Snack in a gift bag

### **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 did the wise men look for?** (Baby Jesus.) **Did they find Him?** (Yes.)
  - **The wise men brought their treasures as gifts for baby Jesus.**
  - **What gift would you give to baby Jesus?** (Children respond.)
  - **The greatest gift we can give Jesus is our love. How can you show your love to Jesus?** (Children respond.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

<b>"God</b>	Open right hand (fingers together and palm facing left) moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
<b>so loved</b>	Fists closed, both arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
<b>the world</b>	Both W-handshapes (Extend middle three fingers, touch pinky to thumb) circle around each other.
<b>that He gave His</b>	(gave) With the thumb touching the fingers, the hand moves forward away from the body.
<b>one and only Son."</b>	(Son) The closed fist touches the forehead, then the hand opens as it comes down and is cradled in the opposite arm (palm open).
<b>John 3:16a</b>	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

### **PRAY**

**Let's pray together.** Say a closing prayer with the children.

### **PLAY**

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

### **DISMISSAL**

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



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 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.** (Clap hands.)
- **They bowed down and worshiped the baby 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 hands to show treasure.)
- **Incense, myrrh, and gold they gave,** (Make gesture of giving.)
- **For He was the King who came to save.** (Point up to heaven.)



### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

“God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.” John 3:16a

### **GAME: HOP AROUND THE WORLD**

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

**Supplies:** Globe or picture of the world

**Our Bible Memory Verse says, “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.” Who is God’s one and only Son? (King Jesus.) God loves everyone in the world very much! That’s why He gave King Jesus to everyone! Let’s hop around the world as we say our Bible Memory Verse.**

**Directions:**

1. Place the globe or picture of the world in the center of the play area.
2. Have the children line up behind you.
3. As you say the Bible Memory Verse, lead the children in hopping around the globe or picture of the world.
4. Continue hopping around the world until you finish the Bible Memory Verse.
5. Play as often as you like. Allow the children to take turns leading the line.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS!**

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

**Supplies:** None

**Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse.**

### **Directions:**

1. Children stand or sit in a circle holding their closed hands to their mouths to make a "trumpet."
2. Have children repeat the verse after you: **"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son."**
3. Once the children are comfortable saying the verse, lead the children in saying the verse in different ways such as slowly, quickly, quietly, or loudly. You can also change whether they are sitting, standing, or slowly rising or sitting as they say the verse.
4. Play as often as you like.



## **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 events surrounding Jesus' birth.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 10, Lesson 52 – Giving to the King: The Wise Men

**PONDER!** The wise men came from far away to find baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11). What did God put in the sky to lead them? What did the wise men give to baby Jesus?

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for showing baby Jesus to the wise men. Teach us how to give our treasures to You. Amen."

**PLAY!** The wise men brought gifts to baby Jesus. When we give gifts to others, King Jesus is happy. Jesus says, when you give to someone else, it's just like giving to Him. With your family, make a special gift for someone who needs cheering up. Include a message that says, "Jesus loves you!"

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

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