



Giving to the King: The Wise Men

Lesson Aim: To explore ways to 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

Whisper Verse: "They opened their treasures."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"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: Worshipping 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 explore ways to 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	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a treasure chest or gems
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "They opened their treasures."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "His One and Only Son" or "King of Kings" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "It's Praise Time," "I Bring You Good News," "Give Thanks to the Lord" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Away in a Manger," "Go Tell it on the Mountain," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "What Can I Give Him" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Countdown Kids: 60 Christmas Carols For Kids! Great Christmas Songs For God's Kids
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms 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 2:11 Visual: Treasure chest or gems
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Gift Banner for Jesus	Wide ribbon, Christmas wrapping paper, sturdy yellow paper, crayons or markers, yarn, tape
		Game: Find Baby Jesus	Baby doll wrapped in cloth, small crown to fit on baby doll's head
		Game: Traveling With Treasures	Three gift bags or lunch sacks tied closed with ribbon.
		Snack: Tasty Treasures	Snack wrapped in a gift box
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 10, Lesson 52 Color This Story: "The Wise Men Bring Gifts"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	None
	Up to 10	Game: Hop Around the World	Globe or picture of the world
	Up to 10	Game: Poster Pictogram	Five large sheets of paper, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about the events surrounding Jesus' birth

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



They opened their treasures

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 stamp or sticker of a treasure chest or gems. **Let this sticker of treasure help you remember the wise men saw baby Jesus and gave their treasures to Him. Today's Whisper Verse is "They opened their treasures."** 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 opened their treasures."
(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" | The index finger points to several people. |
| "opened" | The hands move apart to show that something is opening. |
| "(their) treasures." | The hand closes in front of the chin to indicate that something will be kept and not shared. |

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 opened their treasures," Matthew 2:11. 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 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 “It’s Praise Time!” as children move to that designated area.

It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the King who came to us. God helps us find Jesus and come close to Him. God sent a star so the wise men could find Him, too. When they found baby Jesus, they opened their treasures for Him. That sounds like today’s Whisper Verse: “They opened their treasures.” Let’s try it together now. Review Whisper Verse together: “They opened their treasures.” Include sign language.



Today, we will not find Jesus if we look in a manger. We cannot see Him as the wise men did because He is in heaven, but we can still find Jesus! We find Him in the Bible stories He gave us. We find Him when we see all the things He has made. We find Him when we feel His love through others. Today, Jesus is everywhere! When we tell other people about Him—we are helping them find Jesus, too! Sing: “Go Tell It on the Mountain.”



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 wanted to find baby Jesus so they could see Him and worship Him. To worship Jesus is to show Him how much we love Him. 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: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” while we collect the offering.

We give our best praise to God to thank Him for giving His best to us—His one and only Son. Sing: “His One and Only Son.”

What do you think is the most important thing we can give God? (Children respond.) **Our love is the greatest gift we can give to God. Let’s sing about what we can give right now!** Sing: “What Can I Give Him?”



The wise men worshiped Jesus

THE WORD

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

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

Last time, we learned the shepherds praised God for giving baby Jesus to us. Today, we will hear how the wise men found baby Jesus and opened their treasures for Him. Let's read about it in the Bible. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Matthew 2:11.

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 a treasure chest or gems. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, 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 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 give baby Jesus? (Treasures which were gifts of gold and good smelling spices called incense and myrrh.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Matthew 2:11 from the teacher's Bible.

Let's say our Whisper Verse: "They opened their treasures." Include sign language or hand motions.



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.
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 gift bags or lunch sacks closed and tied with ribbon, marker

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? As children respond, write their praises on the three gift 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.

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, the team has to return to the beginning.

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 wrapped in a gift box

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.**
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "They opened their treasures."
 - **What was the best gift you have ever been given?** (Children respond.)
 - **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?**



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 ____, ____, ____ (say each 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 "Gift Banner for Jesus" craft. Tell someone God used a star to help the wise men find baby Jesus and they opened their treasures for Him.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about the gifts the wise men gave to baby Jesus.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "The Wise Men Bring Gifts." Discuss the Bible story and play Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, "His One and Only Son," 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 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 children stand in a circle around the world, then turn to face in one direction.
3. Say the Bible Memory Verse. On each word, children hop one time in the same direction.
4. Continue hopping around the world until you finish the Bible Memory Verse.
5. Have children turn around to play again, hopping on the other foot in the opposite direction.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: POSTER PICTOGRAM

Purpose: Children will learn and understand the meaning of the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Five large sheets of paper, crayons or markers

Prepare: Draw each one of the following symbols below on a separate sheet of paper.

- Cross (God)
- Heart (so loved)
- Globe (the world)
- Gift (that He gave)
- Baby in manger (His one and only Son.)

Optional: Each week of this unit, let the children decorate one of the posters.

Directions:

1. Mix the order of the symbols. Choose five children and give one symbol to each child.
2. **These pictures will help us learn our Bible Memory Verse. Let's put them in order. The first word in our Bible Memory Verse is "God." Which picture goes with the word "God"?** (Cross.) **Which picture goes with the word "loved"?** (Heart.) **Which picture goes with "world"?** (Globe.) **Which picture goes with the word "gave"?** (Gift.) **Which picture goes with the words "His one and only Son"?** (Baby in manger.)
3. Use the symbols to repeat the Bible Memory Verse together.



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! Read Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11 with your family. The wise men came from far away to find baby Jesus. God showed them how to find Him. 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. Is there anyone you know who needs cheering up? Ask your family to help you make a special gift for that person. Include a message that says, "Jesus loves you!"

Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: John 3:16a

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son."