

Adventures with GOD!

THE WISE MEN MEET JESUS (A.1.WINTER.6)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 2:1-12
Key Verse	Matthew 2:11b
Key Concept	I can give Jesus the gift of my heart.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Name the gifts that the wise men gave Jesus 2. Explain how we can give Jesus gifts even today 3. Tell the story of the visit of the wise men to see Jesus

Life Application

The Bible doesn't say exactly when, but we think that the wise men arrived in Bethlehem when Jesus was between 18 months and two years old. They gave him gifts that only kings received. Today we can give Jesus special gifts as well, because he is our king. The children can think of the gifts that Jesus wants to receive from us.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Activity	Strips of blank white paper, tape, markers	10 minutes
Bible Story	Illustrations, Bible, image of the wise men, another face	10 minutes
Craft	Work sheet, white paper, scissors, glue	15 minutes
Song, Prayer, Bible Verse	music, instruments, illustration	10 minutes
Gift	Colored paper, scissors, sequins, glitter, glue	20 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Opening Prayer

Gather children around a candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Light the candle

Prayer: God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Activity: When the children arrive in the class you can begin to ask them what type of presents they could give Jesus. When they say something (my heart, obedience, being kind to others, sharing my toys) write the words on strips of paper (that's been cut in advance - about 10 strips for each child, 30cm x 40 cm). The children can make a chain by gluing together the ends of the strips, and looping the strips through each other before gluing them. Make sure the words face outside. Although the children can't read, they can take them home and the parents can read them with the children.

Bible Story: (Matthew 2:1-12) To begin this story, show a present that's beautifully wrapped. Ask if they like to receive gifts. What can be inside? (let the children guess). You could have examples of the gifts that the wise men brought to Jesus, or you could have some sort of snack or small gift for each of the children in the box. Let them work together to open the gift. Talk about how good it is to get gifts.

Before class, make sure you have read and are familiar with the story of the wise men who visited Jerusalem and then Bethlehem. It might be an idea to have incense burning (if no one is allergic) in the room as you tell the story, to give them an idea of what one of the gifts was that the wise men brought Jesus. There are some illustrations in this lesson that you can use to tell the story. Or use a picture book, or some other illustrations that you find. At the end of the story you can put the image of the wise men on the wall and add another happy face. The focus of the story today is that just as the wise men gave Jesus gifts, we can give him gifts today as well. Help them to think about something that they can give Jesus. As you are (or have or will) be celebrating Jesus; birthday they can begin to make gifts to bring to the party. These gifts will represent the things they want to bring Jesus.

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Craft: On the following pages in this lesson you will find instructions to make a crown. Use the example of the illustration and trace the figure of a crown on poster board. Remember to have in mind the size of the children's heads. Cut out the crowns ahead of time and have them decorate them. There is another craft possibility that could be a little complicated for them to make. Enlarge the illustrations and make a copy for each of the children. It will be easiest to already have them cut out. Help them glue the camel on a piece of poster board, remembering not to glue it on the part of the dotted line, because that's where they will make a slit and put the part where the wise man is sitting. Help them to cut on the dotted lines. The star should be glued to the upper right-hand corner. The verse can also be glued on the poster board.

Song and prayer and Bible Verse: Using creative methods teach the children the verse and a Christmas carol. You could write the verse on the figure of a camel and then it will be visually appealing and easier for them to remember. You can sing Christmas songs and then pray giving thanks to God for the gift that Jesus is to us and that we can give Jesus gifts.

Gift: The instructions to make this gift are found in the following pages of the lesson. When they have made the star, if they want and there is time, they can color it and decorate it with aluminum paper.

Closing Prayer

Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle

Prayer: Thank you God for loving us, Thank you God for sending your son Jesus into the world.

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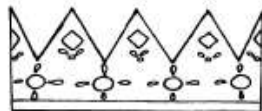
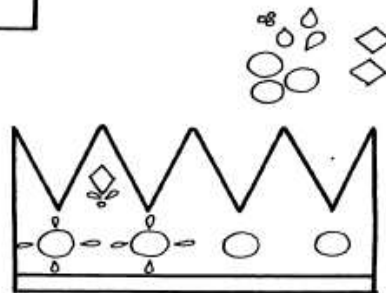
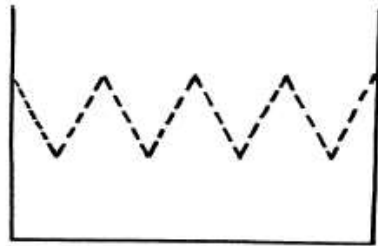
CRAFT

The wise men's crown

Materials - pattern of the crown cut out of poster board, glue, scissors, buttons, aluminum foil, glue, yarn, beads, and different colors of poster board.

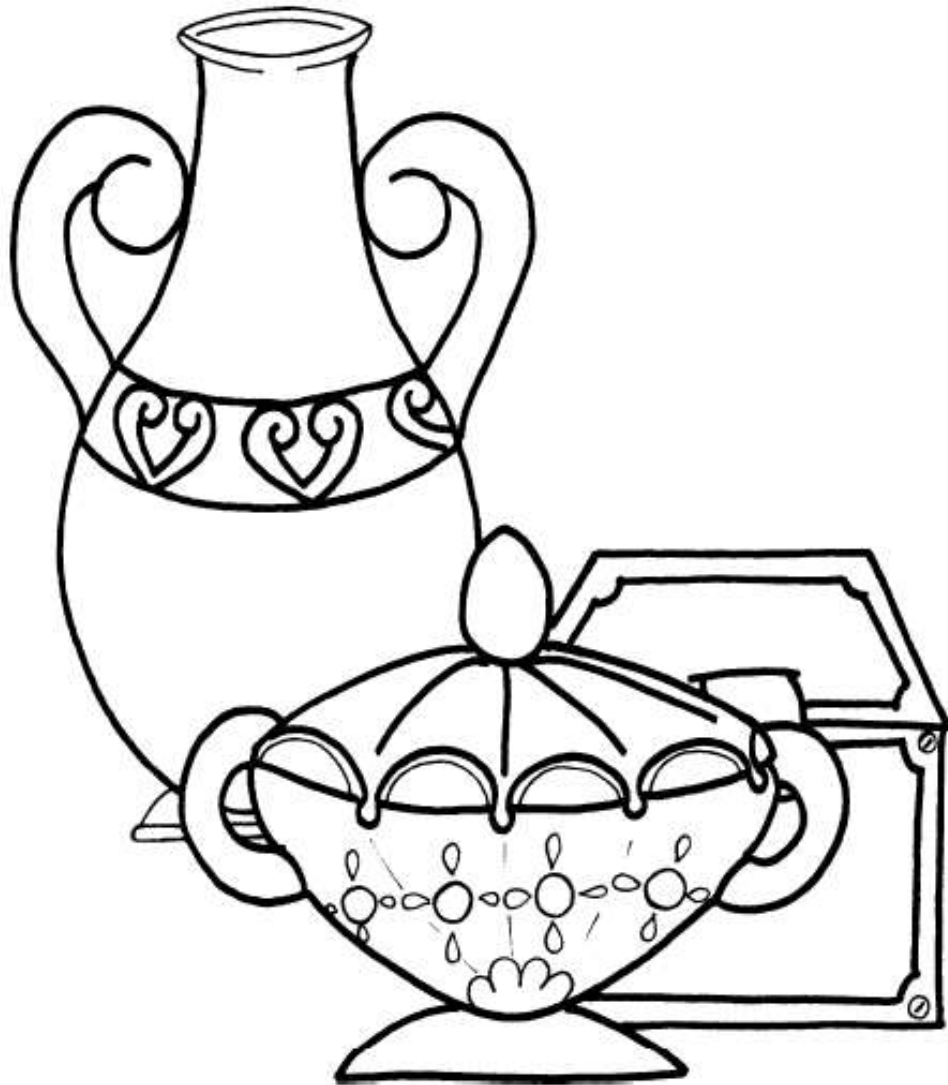
Instructions-

1. Use this pattern to draw a crown on sturdier paper (like poster board). Make sure that it is long enough to wrap around the head of a child. Cut out one crown for each child.
2. The children can decorate them with buttons, aluminum foil, beads, string, etc.
3. When they have finished decorating, measure each child's head and staple or tape the ends of the crown together so it is the right size.



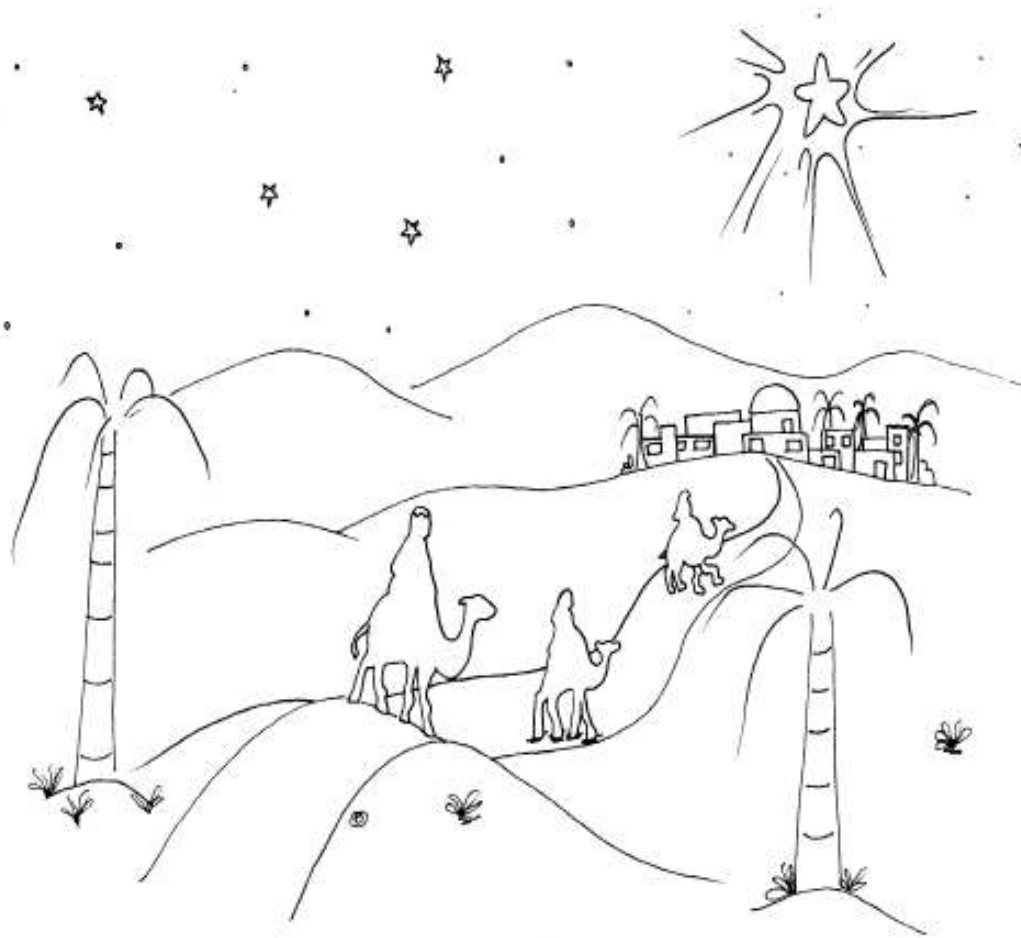
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ILLUSTRATION



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CRAFT

Following the star



This part goes in the
slit so that the wise
man sits on the camel

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GIFT

Star of Bethlehem

Materials - a square piece of colored paper, scissors, sequins, glitter, glue

Instructions -

1. Fold the square diagonally (see figure 1). Then fold it diagonally again (figure 2). Fold it diagonally a third time (figure 3).
2. Cut a straight line (figure 4) and open the star.
3. You can make an eight point star, following the instructions found in step one.
4. Then fold it one more time (figure 5) and cut as seen in figure 6.
5. You can decorate the stars with glitter or sequins.

Figure 1

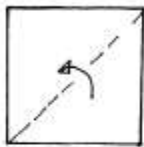


Figure 2

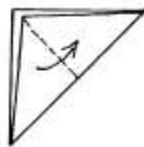


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

