

Get Ready!

We Will Worship Him

By: Julie Gallagher



Text

Matthew 2:1-15

Key Quest Verse

“We saw his star in the East and have come to worship him” (Matthew 2:2b).

Bible Background

The God we worship is infinitely capable as author of life, sustainer of all creation, and designer of the plan for all time. He had everything orchestrated before the creation of the first thing! He knew in advance all that would happen and planned accordingly. The most incredible aspect of God’s plan is the gift of His Son, Jesus. Before God spoke the words “let there be,” God knew that mankind would sin and be in need of a savior. He formulated a plan (Logos – John 1) that became flesh (vs. 14) in the life of Jesus. On account of (or because of) Jesus, all things could be created (Colossians 1).

It is interesting to examine the birth of Jesus from the viewpoint of God planning for it all to happen. There are numerous Old Testament accounts prophesying the birth of Christ. Many of them are very specific, defining the place, the family line, and the virgin birth. The selection of parents for Jesus, the requirement of a census that brought them to Bethlehem, and the placement of the magnificent star in the heavens to lead the Magi, are all further evidence of our God controlling everything and perfectly presenting His plan of redemption to His people. All creation should marvel at His awesome works!

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

Know: Wise men traveled a long way to worship Jesus and bring gifts to Him.

Feel: Be so thankful that we want to give our best to God.

Do: Worship God and Jesus.

Leader's Devotion

“We saw his star in the East and have come to worship him” (Matthew 2:2b). Often times we think of the wise men coming to see Jesus in order to bring gifts to him. We look at the special meaning behind each gift and think of its importance or prophetic nature. But greater than the giving of the gifts, is the fact that the wise men came to worship him. They stopped what they were doing, packed their bags and traveled a great distance so that they could worship the Christ! Allow this realization to really sink in during this season and pause to worship Christ along with His father, God.

Get Set!

Option A

Materials: Glow in the dark stars or stars cut from construction paper, one large star out of construction paper

Procedure: Place glow in the dark stars (or stars cut from construction paper) on the ceiling, cut one large star out of construction paper to represent the star over Jesus. Turn the lights out and try to make the room as dark as possible, so the stars can be seen. **We see lots of stars as part of Christmas decorations around, don't we? Have you ever wished on a star? We used to wish on falling stars. There's also a saying, "Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight, wish I may, wish I might, have the wish I wish tonight." Did you think that your wish would really come true? There are some people in our story today who saw a very special star. They didn't just wish on it, but they followed it hoping it would lead them to someone very special.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: Chairs

Procedure: Set chairs up in groups of twos (or fours) like a bus or train. Have the children sit down in the chairs and explain that you are going for a bus ride today in class. **How many of you like to travel? I like to go places, but I would much rather just be there than take a big trip to get there. Has anyone here ever said, "Are we there yet?" Sometimes a long trip can get kind of boring. Isn't it better when we know that something great is waiting for us when we get there? There were some men in our story today that traveled for a very long time to see something very special. I don't know if they got tired of traveling, but I know that they kept on going, because they wanted to see someone special.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



Get Set!

Bible Story

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles.

Materials: Construction paper, flashlight, drawing of a Bible-time house out of construction paper or poster board

Procedure: Before the lesson, cut a star-shaped hole in a piece of construction paper. Tape the paper over the end of a flashlight. The opening in the paper should be a star shape and should shine a star on the wall. Begin with the lights off and shine the star light onto the wall. As you tell the story, gradually move the light and have the class follow it. If it's possible to use two rooms, place the drawing of the house (where Jesus is) in a second room and follow the star to the house as you tell the story.

Do you remember how we've been talking about when Jesus was born? After He was born, a very special star shone in the sky to announce His birth. In a far away place, some wise men saw the special star and knew that it meant that a king had been born. They had three special gifts – anyone know what they were? Then they started traveling so they could see this great king. How do you think they knew where to go? They followed the star – just like we are. They came to Jerusalem first, because that's where the kings lived. They went to see King Herod and asked him, "Where is the King of the Jews? We saw His star and have come a long way to bring gifts to Him and to worship Him." The king found out that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem. He asked the wise men when the star had first appeared, so he would know how old Jesus was. He sent the wise men to Bethlehem and told them to come back and tell him where Jesus was. He said that he wanted to go and worship, too, but he was actually tricking them and wanted to kill Jesus, so Jesus would never be king and take his job.

The wise men kept following the star to Bethlehem until it stopped over a house. There they saw Jesus and His mother, Mary. They were so excited to see Jesus. They gave Him the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and they worshipped Him. They had traveled a long way to see Him and it was worth it! After a visit with Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, the wise men started for home. They went home a different way, because an angel warned them not to go back to King Herod. An angel also came to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt where they would be safe from King Herod. They stayed in Egypt for a while, but they never forgot the visit from the wise men who had traveled so far to see Jesus.

Go!

Sign Language**CHRISTIAN LIVING****Materials:** Resource Page

Quest Connection

Do you remember that the wise men traveled a long way to see Jesus? I wonder if they even spoke the same language. We're going to learn our memory verse in another language today. We're going to learn it in sign language so we can share it with people.

Procedure: Teach the following signs to the class and practice the verse. This would make a good presentation for a Christmas program.

Close

As we practice this verse, let's remember that we can worship with our voices or with our hands.

Go!**Sparkling Stars****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Black or dark blue construction paper, paint brushes, q-tips, white, yellow, gold, or silver liquid tempera paint, liquid starch, powdered paint, table salt, paint shirts

Quest Connection

The wise men followed the star to the place where Jesus was. We're going to think about what that star might have looked like. What do you think made it different from all the other stars? Today we're going to paint our own special stars.

Procedure: For each color of paint, mix 1 teaspoon liquid starch and 1 teaspoon water with 1/2 teaspoon powdered paint. Stir in 2 teaspoons table salt. Adjust quantities to make spreadable, textured paint. Make as many batches as needed for the size of your class. Let children paint their stars. They may want to use the q-tips to add smaller stars around the big one, or to use the dots to make the big star (pointillism). Allow the paintings to dry before sending them home with the students.

Close

When the wise men saw the star, they wanted to see Jesus to worship Him. They even traveled a long way just to see Him. When you look at your picture, think about how special Jesus is and thank God for sending Him to us.

Go!

Charlie the Church Mouse**COMPUTER**

Materials: Computer, software “Charlie Church Mouse Bible Adventures” (go to www.lifelinekids.com)

Quest Connection

We are going to do some activities on the computer today. This software will let you play some games to help you learn more about the wise men who came to visit Jesus.

Procedure: Install the software on the computer. Click on the game. Go to the “Three Wise-men” activities. (Note that there are two levels.) There are also coloring pages you may print out by clicking on the crayons on the bottom left side.

Close

Did you enjoy those computer activities? Let's see who can remember our Memory Verse.

Go!

Pin the Star Over the House**GAME**

Materials: House used in Option A, stars cut out of construction paper (one for each child), blindfold, tape

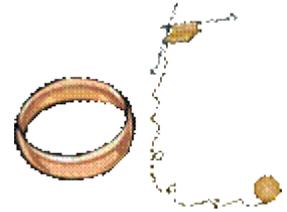
Quest Connection

Does anyone remember how the wise men knew where to go to find Jesus? That's right, they followed a star. We're going to play a game today and try to put the star over the house where Jesus lived.

Procedure: Play the game like "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Blindfold the child, turn him around several times and have him try to put his star over the house. Let all the children take a turn and see which one is closest.

Close

Prayer: Thank You, God, for sending the star for the wise men to follow.

Go!

Hide the Ring**GAME**

Materials: Long piece of yarn or string, gold colored ring

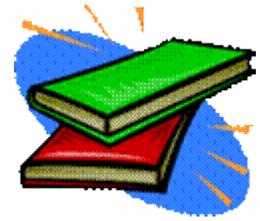
Quest Connection

Who can tell me what the gifts were that the wise men brought to Jesus? One of those gifts was gold. We're going to play a game with this gold ring today.

Procedure: Sit in a tight circle with each child holding a part of the string. Slip the ring onto the string and tie the ends together. One child stands in the circle and covers his eyes. Meanwhile, the rest of the class slides the ring around the circle while saying the Memory Verse. When the verse is done, the child in the middle opens his eyes and has three chances to guess who is hiding the ring. After that, reveal who has it and let someone else take a turn.

Close

How did the wise men know how to find Jesus? They followed the star. Isn't it a good thing God showed them the way with the star and didn't hide it from them? Let's be sure to show others about Jesus and not hide Him.

Go!

My Christmas Book**CREATIVE WRITING**

Materials: C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S worksheets, pencils, crayons or markers

Quest Connection

Over the past few weeks we've been learning a lot more about Christmas. We've learned that it's more than getting presents – it's about the greatest present, Jesus. Today we're going to make our own Christmas books to help us remember what Christmas is all about.

Procedure: Before class prepare one book for each member of the class. Copy the pages front and back, fold in half and staple or punch holes and tie yarn to keep the books together. In class help the children think of things about Christmas for each letter of the word. Help them write the words, or let them draw pictures instead of writing. Let them illustrate and decorated as there is time.

Close

Each time you look at your book remember the real meaning of Christmas.

Go!**C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S****MUSIC**

Materials: C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S Song, words are printed below.
A soundtrack can be ordered for under \$5 at www.gospel-music-express.com/DaywindKidz.html

Quest Connection

The wise men traveled a long way to worship Jesus. One way that we can worship is by singing. Let's learn this song together.

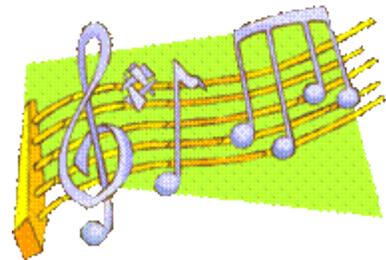
Procedure: Teach the song to the class. I usually start right at C is for the Christ Child. Sing through several times until familiar. This is a good song for a Christmas program.

C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S

by Jenny Lou Carson and Eddy Arnold

When I was but a youngster,
Christmas meant one thing
That I'd be getting lots of toys that day
I learned a whole lot different
When Mother sat me down
And taught me to spell Christmas this way:

"C" is for the Christ Child born upon this day
"H" for herald angels in the night
"R" means our Redeemer
"I" means Israel
"S" is for the star that shone so bright
"T" is for three wise men, they who traveled far
"M" is for the manger where He lay
"A" is for all He stands for
"S" means shepherds came

**Close**

I know that God is happy with your song. Singing to God is a gift that we can give to Him every day. Let's remember this week to sing to our great God!

Go!

We Will Worship Him**DRAMA**

Materials: Robes, rope or fabric for belts, pieces of fabric large enough to wrap around a child, clothes pins with springs to act as fasteners, items representing the three gifts the wise men brought to Jesus

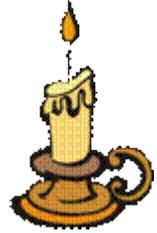
Quest Connection

The Bible tells us that the wise men came to see Jesus to worship Him. How do you think they felt when they first saw Him? How do you think they worshiped Him? Do you think they got down on their knees? Did they sing to Him? Let's act out the story and worship the way the wise men might have done.

Procedure: Divide the children into the different roles of the story. Help them to dress simply as Bible characters. Tell the story again and let them act the story out.

Close

The wise men might have worshiped by bowing down to Jesus. What are some other ways that we can worship Jesus and God? (Some ideas may include: singing, dancing, praying, writing, drawing or painting.) Let's worship God and Jesus this week.

Go!

Tea Light Holder**ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Baby food jars, tissue paper torn or cut up, paint brushes, glue, tea light candles

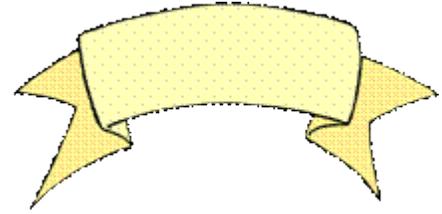
Quest Connection

Have you ever noticed that there are a lot of things that have to do with light at Christmas time? The wise men followed the light of the star to find Jesus. And, what's even better is that Jesus is the light of the world. We're going to make some gifts to help us share God's light with others.

Procedure: Water down the glue until you can paint it on to the jars. Apply tissue paper onto the glue and then paint another coat of glue on top of that. Pop in a tea light candle and you're done!

Close

When you give this gift to someone, tell them about the star light that the wise men followed to see Jesus.

Go!**We Will Worship****WORSHIP BANNER**

Materials: Large roll of paper or butcher paper, choose from: crayons, markers, paints

Quest Connection

We have talked about different ways we can worship God and Jesus. Do you remember that one way is through drawing or painting? We're going to work together as a class today and worship through our art.

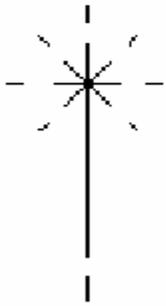
Procedure: Before class cut a large piece of paper and write, "We Will Worship Him" on it. Decide what will work best for your class (paint, crayons or markers, etc.) and collect your supplies. Let the children work together in making the banner. Explain that they can write words to express praise, draw pictures, or even just draw shapes that show how they feel in worship. (Example: bubbly shape.) Be careful not to squelch their ideas as long as they are genuine.

Close

Guide the class in looking at different parts of the banner. **Isn't it neat how we all expressed our worship in our own way?**

Prayer: **Thank You, God, for being so great! We love You. Amen.**

The wise men brought gifts to Jesus. If you were traveling with them, what gift would you bring?

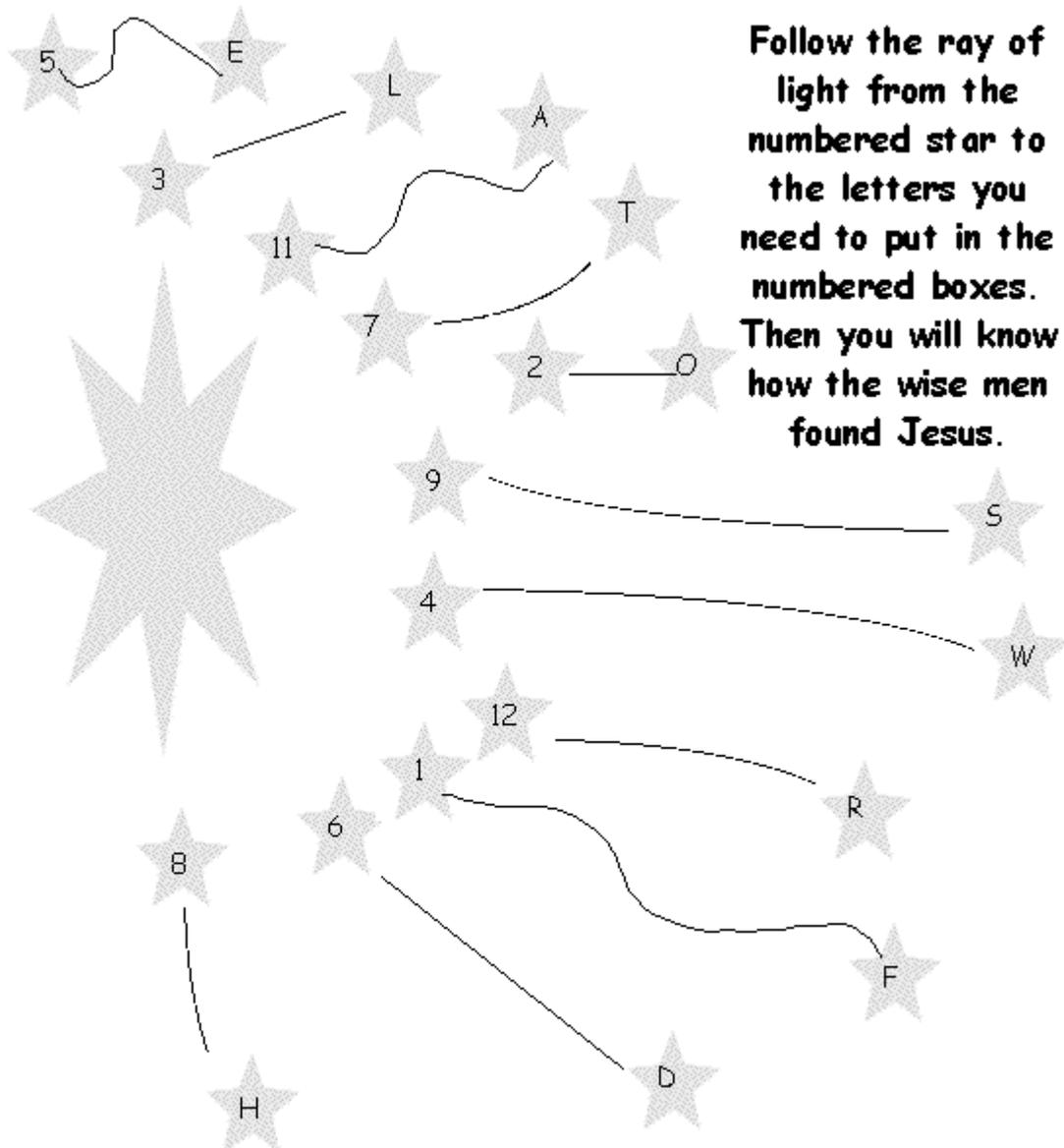


Journal Page

The wise men followed the light of the star to get to Jesus. How can you show His light, so others will want to see Jesus?



“We saw his star in the East and have come to worship him” (Matthew 2:2b).



Follow the ray of light from the numbered star to the letters you need to put in the numbered boxes. Then you will know how the wise men found Jesus.

1	2	3	3	2	4	5	6	7	8	5
		9	7	11	12					

The wise men brought very special gifts to Jesus, but they also came for another reason. To find out the reason, look at each pair of letters and write the letter of the alphabet that comes between them. For example - the letter between A and C is B.

S ___ U
N ___ P

V ___ X
N ___ P
Q ___ S
R ___ T
G ___ I
H ___ J
O ___ Q

G ___ I
H ___ J
L ___ N



Find each of the following words.

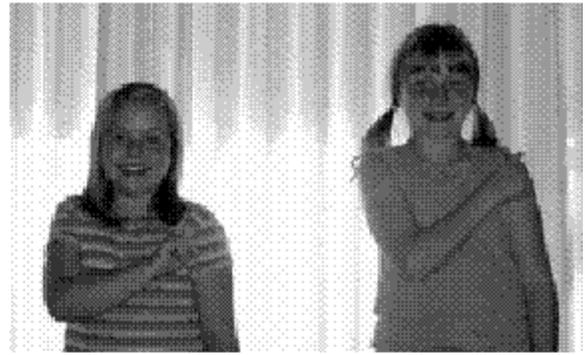
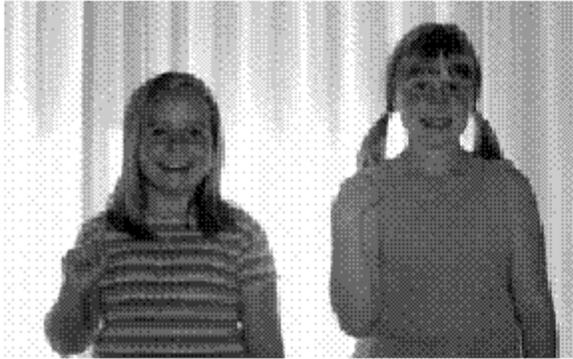
E	T	J	O	S	E	P	H	O	A	S
T	R	A	V	E	L	E	D	V	G	P
G	O	L	D	T	S	S	P	W	E	E
K	M	M	E	N	E	O	I	D	L	S
V	K	I	N	G	J	E	S	U	S	E
V	A	D	N	J	S	W	I	S	E	L
A	M	S	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	O
R	S	A	W	R	V	H	S	P	W	R
A	M	A	R	Y	H	E	R	O	D	S
E	C	A	M	E	A	S	T	A	R	S
E	A	W	A	Y	J	R	A	A	S	O

Men
Joseph
Gold
Traveled
Jesus
Saw
Worship

Mary
King
Came
Herod
Wise
Star



Resource Page

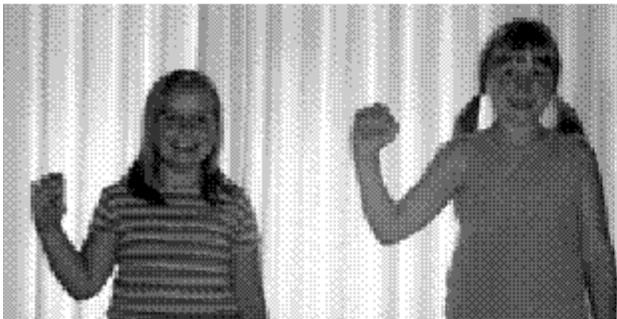


WE: Touch the right index finger on the right shoulder, then move it in a forward semicircle until it touches the left shoulder.



SAW: With the palm facing in, place the fingertips of the right V hand near eyes and move the right hand forward.

HIS STAR: The index fingers rub against each other as the hands are held up pointing to the sky. The movement of the index fingers represent stars twinkling.



IN THE EAST: Move the right E hand to the right with palm facing forward.

AND HAVE COME: The fingers move to-

Resource Page



TO WORSHIP: With the hands clasped together, move them in an arc toward the chest.



HIM: Point upward with the right index finger.

My CHRISTMAS BOOK



Book cover inside

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