



PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5th grade.

January 3, 2021 – The Magi (Matthew 2:1-12)

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: Include

The magi were wise men who studies the stars. They saw an unusual star in the sky one night and knew from their studies that the star meant a king was born. We don't know the number of magi for sure, but because they brought three gifts, we usually refer to them as three magi. The point to remember is that even though they were not Jewish, they recognized the birth of a king and brought gifts to honor him.

The birth of Jesus takes place in a controversial time. King Herod is on the throne. The birth of a new king did not warm his heart. The magi stopped at King Herod's palace to see if he knows where the king might be. That isn't unusual since they probably assumed a child could have been born to King Herod, and Bethlehem was only four-and-a-half miles away. It's hard to tell exactly where a star is shining when places are so close. They quickly sense that King Herod is not interested in this new king for good purposes. So, they do not return to him as he asked after they find baby Jesus. They go on and find Jesus in Bethlehem.

The faith word this quarter is include: to welcome all God's children in God's love. Jesus was born so that all people would know God loved them. The magi are considered the first people to worship Jesus, and they were not Jewish. This is one of the first signs that God's love is open and free for everyone, no matter who they are. We are all included in God's love, and we all share in the community that Jesus began to build from his birth. Jesus continued to model God's all-inclusive love throughout his ministry.

Wonder with Me

READ the Bible Story

- The Magi, from Matthew 2:1-12 (*Read from your Bible, see the verses listed on the next page, or see the following page for a picture of the Celebrate Wonder version.*)

² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magiⁱ from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."ⁱ

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

WATCH the Bible Story

https://youtu.be/4sc_X4j1174

SHARE the Faith Word

Faith Word: Include – It means to welcome all God's children in God's love.

WONDER Together:

1. Why do you think the magi traveled so far to see Jesus?
2. I wonder why they brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
3. What gift would you bring baby Jesus?

Spiritual Practice

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 12 & 13). On page 13 you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.

Did you know that the same stars that we see are seen all over the world by all kinds of people?

Stars can remind us that God sent Jesus for everyone. God wants us to include everyone in our community.

As you look at the stars, think of all the people around the world who are looking at these same stars. Say a prayer for the people you do not know, but who are part of your community through Jesus.

Go in Peace

Look at your hand and spread your fingers out wide. The fingers spread out kind of make your hand look like a star. Touch each finger and repeat after me: “I will include _____ in God’s love.”

Prayer: Dear God, help me include everyone I meet in God’s community of love. Amen.

Blessing: Touch your child and say: “Blessed are those who include everyone in God’s community.”

Additional Activity for each age group

Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)

WONDER

CELEBRATE BIBLE STORYBOOK

The Magi

Matthew 2:1-12

In a faraway place, there were magi who spent their time watching the stars. One night they noticed a very special star in the sky. It was very bright and seemed to be moving ahead of them. The magi thought this special star would lead them to the new king.

They wanted to bring special gifts to the new king. They packed frankincense, gold, and myrrh—gifts fit for a king—and set out following the star.

The magi arrived in Bethlehem, following the special star until it stopped over a little house. When the magi entered the house, they met the new king, Jesus, and his mom, Mary. The magi knelt down and offered Jesus their gifts.

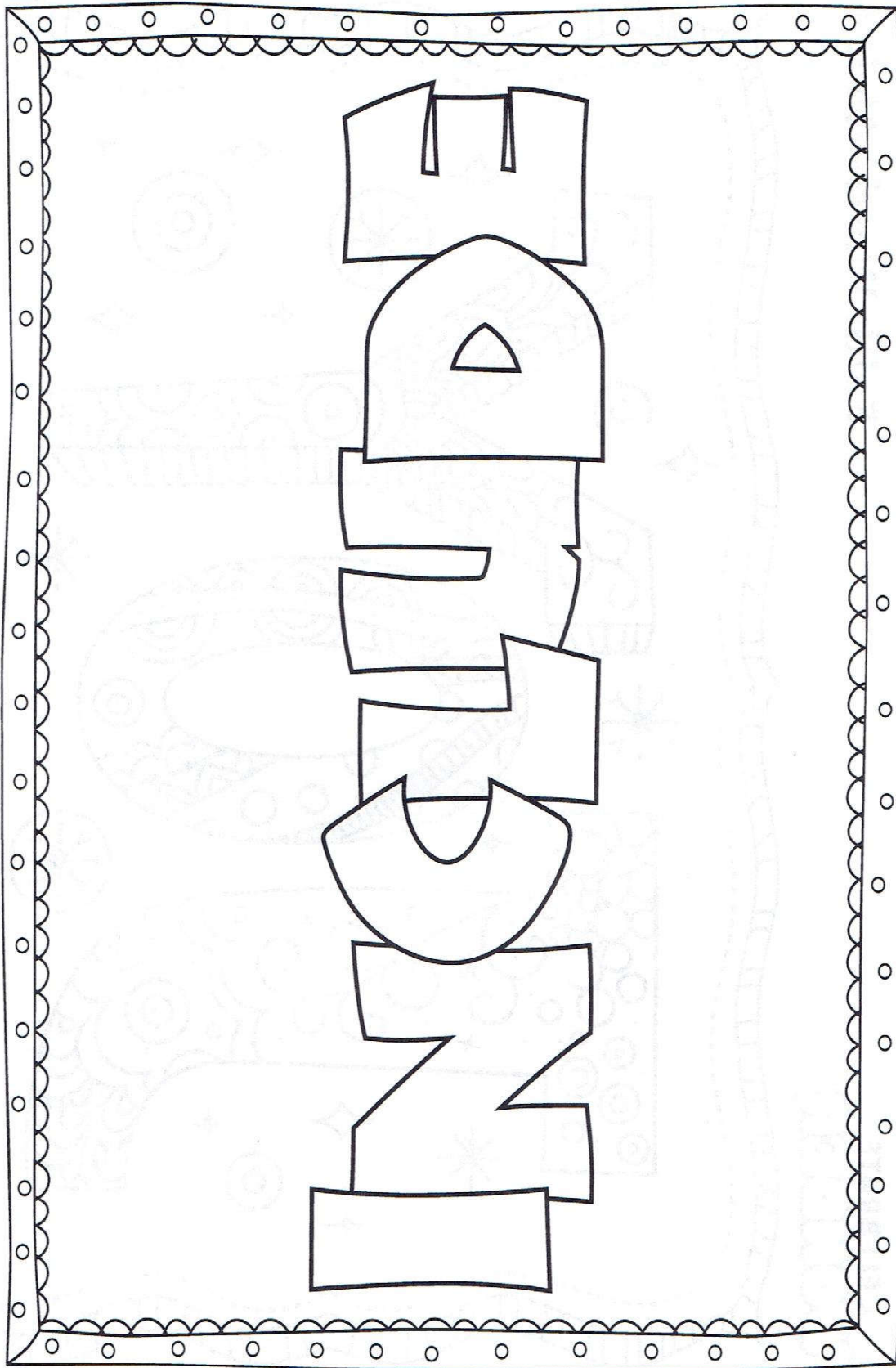


I wonder: Were the magi surprised the new king didn't live in a castle?

Color Sheet for all



Faith Word—Unit 2



Preschool Activity

Star Cookies (Snack)

Supplies: Star shaped cookies or graham crackers, icing and sprinkles

Say: The magi may have had to have a picnic while they were traveling to find Jesus. What kind of food do you think the magi had to eat on their journey?

Let's make a snack to remind us of the star that the magi followed and to remind us that just as the same stars shine down on everyone, God's love is for all people.

Make star shaped cookies or use graham crackers and draw a star shape on it with a tube of icing. Children can decorate their cookies further with sprinkles.

Before sharing your snack together, say a prayer and thank God for the gift of Jesus and his love. Help us remember that God wants us to share that same love and include everyone!

**You may want to sing the following song while you share your snack.
It is to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star:**

Twinkle Twinkle Shining Star:

Twinkle Twinkle shining star *(Flash fingers in the air)*

Wise men followed from afar.

Worshiping Him with gifts to bring. *(Hold hands out as presenting someone with a gift)*

For they knew He was the King.

Twinkle Twinkle shining star *(flash fingers in the air)*

Wise men followed from afar.

Remind your child that we can all give Jesus a gift – by loving and including everyone!



Early Elementary Activity

You are a Star (Creative Art)

Supplies: Copy of “You are a Star” sheet, pencils, crayons, markers, colored pencils

SAY: Sometimes we think about the presents we can bring only to Jesus. But we can also bring special gifts to others, such as being a good friend, helping at church, or spreading the message of Jesus’ love. We all have gifts to share.

Wonder: What makes you special?

Write or draw to complete the statements on the star!

I can be a good friend by...

I can help others by
Early Elementary Activity

I can be an example of Jesus by...

I can serve at church by...

Older Elementary Activity

What Would You Bring? (Creative Art Activity)

Supplies: paper, markers, crayons, colored pencils

Say: In our Bible story this week, the magi brought three gifts to Jesus. These gifts were considered valuable and fit for a king during Jesus' time.

- What gift would you bring to Jesus to welcome him to our community?
- Using paper, markers, crayons and colored pencils create a picture of what you would give to Jesus.

The Visit of the Magi

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Matthew 2:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV).



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

PRIESTS	MYRRH	BETHLEHEM	KING	CHRIST
GOD	CHILD	HOUSE	INCENSE	MARY
STAR	MAGI	TEACHERS	WORSHIP	MOTHER
WORSHIPED	EAST	SEARCH	BORN	HEROD