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leader bible study

The wise men were magi. Their study of the stars led them to Judea to find and worship Jesus, the newborn King. Before they found Jesus, though, the wise men met King Herod. God had promised the Jewish people a new king— one who would save them from their enemies.

King Herod was not that king. Imagine how he felt when he heard about a new king in Bethlehem.

The wise men asked him, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?” (Matt. 2:2) The wise men unintentionally challenged Herod’s reign. Not only was Herod not a full Jew, he was not a descendant of King David. Herod was deeply disturbed by the news that this child had the birthright of being king.

As Herod’s fury grew, he gathered his chief priests and scribes to determine where Jesus had been born. Then he lied to the wise men: “When you find Him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship Him” (Matt. 2:8). What deceitfulness! The truth was, Herod did not want to worship Jesus at all; he wanted to kill Him!

The wise men continued on their journey and found Jesus. Jesus may have been about two years old when the magi found Him and worshiped Him. The Bible does not say how many magi worshiped Jesus, although three are often depicted because of their three gifts— gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God warned the wise men in a dream to avoid Herod, so they returned home by another route.

The wise men came to worship Jesus as King. Jesus is the King who will rule forever, as God promised to King David in 2 Samuel 7. Help the children you teach realize that Jesus is the true King who is worthy of all our worship.

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____

December Focus: Advent



Nov 30th: Isaiah's Plea *Isaiah 64:3-4, 8*

Story point: The prophets shared the hope that God had a plan to save His people.



Dec 7th: Mary's Praise *Luke 1:26-38; 46-47*

Story Point: Mary answered God with praise and a peaceful heart.



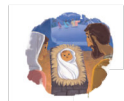
Dec 14th: Angels' and Shepherds' Praise *Luke 2:8-20;*

Story Point: The shepherds praised God after the angels Brought them the joyful news of Jesus.



Dec 21st: Our Praise - Jesus' Birth *Luke 2:1-7, Col 1:15-23*

Story Point: Jesus loves us so much that He came to Earth to save us.



Dec 28th: The Wisemen *Matt 2: 1-21*

Story Point: The Wisemen came to worship Jesus.



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



10 min Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

The men that we will hear about today were looking and hoping for God to do great things. Is there something that you are looking forward to or hoping for God to do in this coming year?

Big Picture Question

When you listen to our Bible story today, I want you to keep an important question in mind: **How is Jesus the perfect Messiah?** Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

Key passage

Our key passage comes from the Bible and tells us about Jesus. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible..." Colossians 1:15-16a

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

Let's look over at our timeline. Over the last few weeks, we've been focusing our lessons on Advent and Christmas. Remember that the people of Israel had waited for 400 years between the last prophet and Jesus' birth. We learned that Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior. Angels announced to shepherds outside of Bethlehem that Jesus, the Messiah and the Savior of the world, was born. Jesus' birth was good news! Today we're going to learn about the Wisemen who traveled hundreds of miles to see this new king. When they saw Him, the Wisemen worshiped Jesus as King.

Show the Bible Story Video or briefly summarize today's story. Each class will go more in depth during their Bible Story Time.



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to **Matthew 2:1-21**. Read from the Bible or use the story example to help you tell the story. Wrap up with the insights below.

Before the Wisemen found Jesus, they met King Herod. God had promised the Jewish people a new king— one who would save them from their enemies. King Herod was not that king—that king was Jesus. Herod became deeply disturbed by the news that Jesus had the birthright of being king.

As Herod's fury grew, he gathered his chief priests and scribes to determine where Jesus had been born. Then he lied to the Wisemen: "When you find Him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship Him" (Matt. 2:8). What deceitfulness! The truth was, Herod did not want to worship Jesus at all; he wanted to kill Him!

As the Wisemen continued on their journey they saw the star above where Jesus would be found. When the Wisemen saw this star they were overwhelmed with joy, and when they saw Jesus, they fell to their knees in worship! The Wisemen came to worship Jesus as King - the King who will rule forever, just as God promised! After leaving Jesus, the Wisemen were warned in a dream and returned home a different route to prevent King Herod from hurting Jesus.

Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: THE WISEMEN WORSHIPED JESUS.

Long ago, God promised to send a king to save His people from their enemies. Then Jesus was born in Bethlehem at the same time Herod was king. God sent a star to show the Wisemen that Jesus had been born. They came to King Herod. "Where is the king of the Jews?" they asked. "We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

King Herod was very angry. He said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find Him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship Him." But Herod didn't want to worship the new king; he wanted to kill Him!

The Wisemen followed the star until it led them to Jesus. They fell to their

knees and worshiped Jesus. Then they gave Jesus gifts. When it was time for the Wisemen to go home, God warned them in a dream not to tell Herod where Jesus was. So they took a different way home.



escaped.

After the Wisemen were gone, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Get up! Take the child and His mother, flee to Egypt." So in the middle of the night, Joseph got up and took Mary and Jesus to Egypt.

King Herod was so mad. He killed all the boys in Bethlehem under two years old - just to make sure he killed Jesus. But he didn't know Jesus and His family had

A while later, an angel spoke to Joseph again in a dream. Joseph did what the angel said to do. He got up and took Mary and Jesus to Israel.

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids use the table of contents and large numbers in the text to find **Matthew 2:1-21**. We are going to review the stories that we have learned over the past few weeks about Jesus' birth. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **Where did the Wisemen come from?** (the east, Matt. 2:1)
2. **What did God put in the sky to let the wise men know Jesus was born?** (a star, Matt. 2:2)
3. **What gifts did the Wisemen give to Jesus?** (gold, frankincense, and myrrh; Matt. 2:11)
4. **Where did the angel tell Joseph to take Mary and Jesus?** (Egypt, Matt. 2:13)

God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

-Promise Keeper

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



15 min

Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Scratch Art

The Wisemen traveled to Bethlehem to see Jesus. God provided a star for them to follow and when they arrived, they worship Jesus as King. Jesus is the King who will rule forever, as God promised. The wise men gave Jesus and his family helpful gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

1. Give each child a scratch card. Instruct them to trace out the word "JOY". Invite them to take their time and make a fancy or cool design. The children can do bubble letters, add doodle or other fun shapes to make the card stand out.
2. After they have completed their joy scratch card, let children color and trace other other scratch cards.





5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide*.**

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Key Passage Review Extra Ideas:

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage. When kids finish, invite groups one at a time to say the key passage together.

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud. Then challenge them to read it in various ways: whispering, shouting, quickly, slowly, and so on.

Form two groups of kids. Call on the first group to say the key passage together. Then call on the second group to say it.

Prompt the first group to say the passage a few phrases at a time, pausing for the second group to echo. When kids finish saying the key passage, lead the second group to begin and the first group to echo.

Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. Guide kids to say the key passage, one word at a time, moving around the circle.

Allow kids to look at the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words. Continue around the circle a few times. Consider shouting, "Switch!" and letting kids move to another place in the circle before playing again. *Or toss the ball to different kids rather than go in order.*

Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick. Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

