

3-6 | December 28

**Today's Bible Story:** The Wise Men Visit Jesus • *Matthew 2:1-12*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Celebrate Jesus all year long.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."* • Luke 2:11 NIV

## 1. Opening Activity

Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God for them! Ask God to help kids understand that the Wise Men searched for Jesus because He is worth finding, honoring, and celebrating. Pray that the Holy Spirit would help the kids focus, notice details, and discover new things about Jesus as they learn today. Ask God to help you point kids to Jesus in fun and meaningful ways!

### What You Need:

- ☐ "Wise Men Spot the Difference" Activity Page (one per child or pair)
- ☐ Crayons or washable markers

### What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container, if applicable.
- Ask the kids about something fun they've noticed or learned so far during Christmas time.
- Give each child (or pair) a "Wise Men Spot the Difference" Activity Page and crayons or markers.
- Explain that there are two pictures of the Wise Men traveling to see Jesus, but there are several differences between them.
- Challenge the kids to circle or color the differences they find.
- Encourage kids to work alone or with a partner and help each other spot all the differences.
- Celebrate when they find them—cheer them on and offer hints if they get stuck!

### What You Say:

"Great job, everyone! You used your eyes to look carefully and spot all the differences in the Wise Men pictures. The Wise Men were careful and determined too—they followed the star so they could find Jesus.

"They didn't stop searching until they found Him, and when they did, they celebrated by giving gifts and worshiping Him. The Wise Men show us that Jesus is worth looking for, celebrating, and honoring—not just at Christmas, but every day.

[Transition] Today, we'll learn more about how the Wise Men found Jesus and how we can celebrate Him all year long too!"

[Lead your group to do worship and watch today's lesson]

## 2. Journey to Jesus

### What You Need:

- ☐ Paper towel or toilet paper rolls
- ☐ Double-sided origami paper (various colors) or construction paper
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks



### What You Do:

- Gather the kids and show them the different colors of origami paper. Explain that they'll be creating Wise Men to remember how they traveled to find Jesus.
- Help the kids choose colors for the Wise Men's robes. Cut wide strips of paper and glue them around the bottom section of each paper roll.
- Cut narrow strips of paper in different skin tones for the faces. Glue these above the robe strips.
- Provide paper for beards in various beard colors. Help kids cut and glue the beards where the robe and face paper meet.
- Cut narrow strips of paper for crowns and glue them around the top of the rolls.
- Carefully help the kids cut zigzag shapes at the top edge of each roll to form the crowns.
- Optional: Kids may create tiny paper gifts for the Wise Men to carry.

### What You Say:

"Great job creating Wise Men today! Just like the Wise Men traveled to find Jesus, we can remember that they brought their best to honor Him. Your Wise Men remind us that Jesus is our King, and we can give Him our love, our time, and our hearts."

Think about what you can give Jesus. When we give Jesus something, that's one way we can worship Him. We can worship and celebrate Jesus not just at Christmas, but every single day! He loves us every single day, and we live in the rescue He won for us every single day! Remember, we can **[Bottom Line] celebrate Jesus all year long!**"

## 3. Pray and Dismiss

### What You Need:

- ☐ No supplies needed

### Inclusive Supplies:

- ☐ Scratch paper
- ☐ Coloring supplies

### What To Do:

- Gather the kids in a circle.
- Say: "The Wise Men brought special gifts to Jesus—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They gave Him their very best because they knew He was the King. We don't have gold or treasures to bring today, but we can imagine what we might give Jesus if He were sitting right here with us."
- Invite kids to close their eyes for a few quiet moments.

- Prompt them: “Imagine you are bringing a gift to Jesus. What would you bring Him? Maybe you’d give Him a smile, a hug, or a song. You don’t have to say it out loud. Just think about the gift you’d want to give Him.”
- After a short pause, close with prayer.

**Prayer:**

“Dear God, thank You for the Wise Men who showed us how to celebrate Jesus with their gifts. We may not have treasures like gold or frankincense, but we can give You our hearts, our love, and our lives. Help us to celebrate Jesus not just at Christmas, but all year long, because we know You love us all year long. Thank You for loving us so much that You gave us Jesus, the greatest gift. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

*[As adults arrive, encourage kids to share with their grown-ups what kind of “gift” they imagined giving to Jesus today. Remind families that celebrating Jesus all year long is one of the best gifts we can give Him.]*

**Inclusive Pro Tips:**

- Offer scratch paper and coloring supplies for kids who may prefer to draw or write their prayers to God instead of praying silently! This gives visual and kinesthetic learners a hands-on way to reflect and connect with God.