



CHRISTMAS | WEEK 3 | DECEMBER 21, 2025 | ELEMENTARY

The Wise Men Visit Jesus

Key Application: Christmas: Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

Bible Story: The Wise Men Visit Jesus • Matthew 2:1-12

Key Question: How can you celebrate Jesus through the year?

Basic Truth: I am made by God to Worship Him (to live in a way that shows Him love and honor).

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

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → • You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → • A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow

Doors
Open
9:15/11:00

Large Group
Starts
9:35/11:20

Small Group
Starts
10:05/11:50

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

Today we’re going to see that we can celebrate Jesus all year long. Jesus is God’s greatest gift to us, and He’s a gift for our entire lives.

(SLIDE: VIRTUE) “Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God’s greatest gift.

Let’s review our memory verse for the month.

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE)

- “Today” – *Point straight down with both hands like you’re marking right now.*
- “in the town of David” – *Make a “roof” over your head with your hands.*
- “a Savior” – *Spread your arms wide like you’re about to hug.*
- “has been born” – *Rock your arms like you’re holding a baby.*
- “to you.” – *Point to a friend or the group.*
- “He is the Messiah,” – *Pretend like you’re putting on a crown with your hands.*
- “the Lord.” – *Point both hands up to the sky.*
- “Luke 2:11” – *Open the palms of your hands together like you’re opening a Bible.*

Take a minute to explain that ‘Luke’ is a book in the New Testament, and that the first number means ‘chapter’ and the second one means ‘verse’. ‘NirV’ is what translation the Bible is in. The Bible wasn’t originally written in English! There are different translations.

That verse the message the angel declared to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born! But before we get to that part of the story, let’s play a game.

LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

OH, CHRISTMAS TREE

(Christmas Decorations – A Random Assortment for Each Small Group)

(SLIDE: OH, CHRISTMAS TREE)

(VIDEO: CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN)

HOW TO PLAY:

- **SPLIT INTO SMALL GROUPS.** Give each group an assortment of wrapping paper, bows, and other décor.
- **YELL "GO!"** Kids will wrap their SGL! Give kids 3 minutes (countdown on Playlister) to decorate their leader and make them as festive as possible. Walk around and comment as they decorate. Be sure to take pictures and send them to your campus staff coordinator!
- **JUDGE.** Just for fun, determine who you think is the most festive!

"That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and we will sing some Christmas worship songs!"

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN, SILENT NIGHT)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(Wrapped box with Jesus label on one side)

Walk out with last wrapped box, this one labeled Jesus. During the Christmas season, there are Christmas trees and candy canes and there's so much joy—all to celebrate what happened on that very first Christmas, when God gave us Jesus—Jesus is the greatest gift!

This week, we're going to look at a story of some people who celebrated Jesus long after the first Christmas! "Most people think the Wise Men were at the manger because that's how it is when we see the Nativity. But actually, the Wise Men didn't meet baby Jesus—they met two-year-old Jesus. And while you might think they were a little late to the party, they were actually right on time. Let's dive into the story."

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 5/6 MIN)

You know, the Wise Men celebrated Jesus long after Jesus was born. The first Christmas had long come and gone, and the Wise Men were still giving Jesus gifts and showing Him how wonderful He is.

"You can do that too! You can celebrate Jesus all year long, you don't have to just celebrate Him during the Christmas season!"

The Wise Men gave Jesus their very best gifts. We don't have gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but we do have our skills and our lives and our love. We can give God our very best every day—showing His love, His forgiveness, and His kindness everywhere we go, every single day.

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) I am made by God to Worship Him (to live in a way that shows Him love and honor).

As we head to Small Groups, we want you to consider this question:

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) How can you celebrate Jesus through the year?

Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give



prompts if needed. Don't try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.

"Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1....

"I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let's pray.

"God, thank You for sending Jesus, Your greatest gift. Help us to celebrate Him and Your great love, not just at Christmas, but every single day. We love You, and we're so grateful for Jesus. Amen."

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS



SMALL GROUP

Key Application: Christmas: Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

Bible Story: The Wise Men Visit Jesus • Matthew 2:1-12

Key Question: How can you celebrate Jesus through the year?

Basic Truth: I am made by God to Worship Him (to live in a way that shows Him love and honor).

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

TALK ABOUT IT (K-5th)

Not every answer will be exactly right, but the goal is to guide the kids into good conversation and gently redirect them toward deeper, more biblical answers.

Key Question: How can you celebrate Jesus through the year?

LOOK IT UP (3-5th)

Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.

Look Up: Matthew 2:13-15

Say: What did Mary and Joseph do after the wise men visited? How long did they stay there?

Practice It

(Bible marked at Matthew 2:1-12, Journey to Jesus activity pages – one per small group.)

What You Do:

- Arrange the four pictures from the "Journey to Jesus" Activity Page spaced in your group area to mark the story "stations."
- Gather the kids and explain that you'll walk through the story by moving from picture to picture, just like the Wise Men traveled.
- Lead the kids to each picture station in the order below.
- While you are at each picture station, read a short part of the story from Matthew 2:1-12 (using the marked Bible) and invite the kids to answer a question.

Star Appears (Star picture)

- Read Matthew 2:1-2 (NIV): Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him."
- Ask: What do you think the Wise Men felt when they saw the star?

Jerusalem (Crown picture)

- Read Matthew 2:3-8 (NIV): When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. So, Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah was going to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied. "This is what the prophet has written. He said, 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah.' A ruler will come out of you. He will rule my people Israel like a shepherd."
- Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report it to me. Then I can go and worship him too."
- Ask: Was Herod happy or worried about this news? Why?

Bethlehem (House picture)

- Read Matthew 2:9-10 (NIRV): After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy.
- Ask: How do you think the Wise Men felt when they finally found Jesus?

Gifts for Jesus (Gift picture)

- Read Matthew 2:11-12 (NIRV): The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So, they returned to their country on a different road.
- Ask: The Wise Men gave Jesus their very best gifts. What are some ways YOU can give something to Jesus today—not something you buy, but something from your heart?

What You Say: “Awesome job walking through the story today! The Wise Men followed the star because they knew God had done something amazing. When they found Jesus, they celebrated Him and gave Jesus their best gifts.

“We can celebrate Jesus too! We may not bring gold, frankincense, or myrrh, but we can give Jesus our life, our time, our love, and our choices. 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 celebrate Jesus all year long!”

CHRISTMAS CHARADES

(2 sets per SG - “Christmas Charades” Cards – precut, Bowl/Bag)

What You Do:

- Play Charades!
- Choose one kid at a time to pull a card from the bag/bowl. Have them silently act out what is on the card while everyone else tries to guess it.
- Rotate out actors as time and interest allows.

PRAYER

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus, the greatest gift. Just like the Wise Men worshiped Jesus with their gifts, we want to worship Jesus with our lives. Help us to sing, pray, thank, learn about, and stay close to Jesus this week. Remind us that every day, not just at Christmas, we can worship Jesus because every day, He loves us, every day, we live in the rescue He won for us, and every day He is our King. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen”