



Jesus Is Worshiped

Matthew 2



LESSON GOAL

The student will worship Jesus as King.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to:

- Tell the events of the wise men coming to worship Jesus.
- Explain how God rescued His Son from Herod.
- Describe the various responses to Jesus.
- List the four prophecies in the chapter.

KEY VERSE

“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” —*Matthew 2:2*

APPLICATION

- Worship Jesus as King.
- Obey God’s directions as Joseph did.
- Rejoice that God faithfully fulfills prophecy.
- Repent of areas where you are unwilling to submit to Jesus’ Lordship.

NEXT WEEK

John Prepares the Way for the Lord
Matthew 3:1–12

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... you shall teach them to your children.” —Deuteronomy 11:18–19

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here that will aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Introduction

In the first chapter of his gospel, Matthew presents Jesus as the only one who could both sit on the throne of David as David’s legal descent and also fulfill the prophesy made through Isaiah that Immanuel would be born of a virgin. The Jews to whom Matthew wrote his Gospel had already been faced with a decision: How would they respond to the King of the Jews? Before they had time to answer, Matthew shows two vastly different responses to the Messiah’s arrival in Matthew 2. Foreign wise men bow to worship the King at the same time that King Herod tries to kill Him. Whether through adoration or attempted assassination, all the characters in Matthew 2 show that they believed Jesus was the King of the Jews. Matthew further confirms that Jesus is the Messiah by showing that He is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy. Just as the Jews were faced with the question of how they would respond to the Messiah, each individual is faced with the same question today. Will they worship Him like the wise men or hate Him like Herod?

The Arrival of the Wise Men (Matt. 2:1–2)

True to his purpose of showing Jesus as the King of the Jews, Matthew focuses not on the birth of Jesus but on His reception as King. Matthew begins by setting the scene: “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king” (Matt 2:1). Bethlehem was a small village about six miles south of Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem, the birthplace of David, to be counted in the census since Joseph was of the “house and lineage of David” (Luke 2:4). After Jesus had been born in the city (Matt 2:1), Joseph and Mary apparently made the city their permanent home (Matt 2:11). During the time of Jesus’ birth, Israel was ruled by a non-Jew named Herod the Great. Herod had been given the right to rule Israel by the Roman Empire. Although in many ways a capable ruler, Herod was known for his cruelty, jealousy and suspicion. He was responsible for the death of several family members, including his wife and at least two sons. The events in Matthew 2 occur between the birth of Jesus and the death of Herod in 4 B.C.

The arrival of the wise men to worship Jesus is shrouded in mystery. The wise men can be loosely identified as a priestly–political group of learned men who specialized in astronomy, astrology, and occult practices. The predecessors of the wise men were the astrologers and sorcerers of the book of Daniel. The text is unclear from where exactly in the east the wise men came and how they learned to connect the star they saw with the arrival of the King of the Jews. (The wise men had clearly come in contact with either Scripture or some form of Jewish teaching, maybe even traditions handed down from the time of Daniel.) It is also difficult to determine exactly what kind of star they saw. Since it moved and stood over the house of Jesus (Matt. 2:9), the star was most likely not an astronomical object or

condition. The star was more likely a supernatural manifestation caused by God to guide the wise men to the residence of Christ. Although their origin and education about the Jewish king is a mystery, the wise men had a clear purpose. They were intent on worshiping the one “who has been born King of the Jews” (2:2). Somehow, the wise men had been prepared by God to come and worship not someone who would become the King of the Jews but of someone who was born with the legal right to the throne of David.

The Worry of Herod

The news of wise men who were going around Jerusalem looking for the King of the Jews spread throughout the city. Both king and people were “troubled” (Matt. 2:3), but most likely for different reasons. Herod feared a rival to his throne, one who unlike himself came from the Davidic line and had a legitimate right to the throne, and the people probably feared how the cruel Herod and the Roman Empire he represented would react to the news of a new king. If the King of the Jews had been born, turmoil was certainly around the corner.

Herod began acting as soon as he heard the news. He first “gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people” to inquire “where the Christ was to be born.” The chief priests represented the temple hierarchy, most likely including the chief priest, the captain of the temple, and various other Temple officers and priestly leaders, while the scribes included those Jews who were scholars trained in interpreting the Law (mostly Pharisees). Herod then asked “where the Christ was to be born” (Matt. 2:4). In doing so, he demonstrated both a knowledge of the Old Testament and an appreciation of what the wise men were looking for. The chief priests and scribes had no trouble in answering Herod’s question. They answered that the Messiah was to be born “In Bethlehem of Judea” and defended their answer by looking to Micah 5:2, along with a section possibly from 2 Samuel 5:2. (The quotation in Matthew 2:6 appears to be a rough blending of the two.) After finding the birth place of the future Ruler of Israel, Herod secretly sent for the wise men in order to find out “from them what time the star appeared” (Matt. 2:7). (Knowing the time of the star’s appearance would help him limit what age of child he was looking for.) He then sent the wise men on toward Bethlehem, encouraging them to send word to him when they found Him. Herod said that he wanted to “come and worship Him also” (2:8), but obviously he had different intentions. When he found out where the Messiah was, Herod wanted to kill the true King of the Jews.

The Worship of the Wise Men

When the wise men continued on their way, they again saw the star which they had followed from the east (Matt. 2:9). In supernatural confirmation of what Herod had told them, the star “came and stood over where they young Child was” (2:10). The stars’ position showed them where Christ was and thus when “they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy” (2:11). Unlike Herod and Jerusalem who worried at the news of the newborn King, the wise men rejoiced! When they saw the Jesus, they rightly responded by falling down and worshiping Him (2:11). They gave three precious gifts to the King of the Jews: gold, frankincense (an incense made from the gum of a tree), and myrrh (a spice used in embalming which also came from the gum of a tree). After worshiping Jesus, the wise men were “warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod” (2:12). The wise men returned to their own county, their journey having come to an end.

The Warning of Joseph

The wise men were not the only ones warned in a dream. After the wise men had departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and commanded him: “Arise,

take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him" (Matt. 2:13). Herod would not be thwarted for long by the wise men's failure to return and tell him the location of the Messiah. He already knew where Jesus was living and approximately how old He was. To protect His Son, God told Joseph to make the journey to Egypt where Jesus would be safe. (It was at least 75 miles to the border of Egypt.) Joseph obeyed and left that night. Egypt became the home of the King of the Jews until the death of Herod (2:14). Matthew reveals that the exile to Egypt was not only to keep Jesus safe but also to fulfill prophecy. The flight to Egypt was so that "it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet saying, 'Out of Egypt I called My Son'" (2:15). The quotation from Hosea 11:1 describes the Lord's love for Israel evidenced in His rescuing them from Egypt. Although Hosea didn't know it, the way in which the Lord showed his love and choice of Israel by bringing Israel out of Egypt was a prophetic picture of God's love and choice of Israel's Messiah who was similarly brought safely out of Egypt.

The Wrath of Herod

When the wise men did not return, Herod assumed that he had been tricked (2:16). Unable to kill only the Messiah, Herod furiously turned to his cruel "back-up plan." Herod calculated "according to the time which he had determined from the wise men" (2:16) that the Messiah could be no older than two years. Therefore, Herod "put to death all the male children who were Bethlehem and in all its districts" (2:16). Herod not only sought to protect his throne but also, as Satan's servant, was unwittingly trying to destroy God the Son and any hope for man's redemption and reconciliation to God. Even the atrocious act had a place in fulfilling prophecy. Matthew writes: "Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet saying, 'A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more'" (2:17-18). The quotation from Jeremiah 31:15 refers to the distress of Israelite women over the Babylonian invasion and subsequent captivity. Like the previous quotation from Hosea, Jeremiah did not expect God's prophetic picture which was fulfilled in the weeping of women in Bethlehem over the death of their children at Herod's command.

The Return of Jesus

After the death of the wicked king Herod, the angel of the Lord visited Joseph in a dream again and told him to return to "the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead" (Matt. 2:20). Joseph again obeyed and returned to Israel. His initial plan was to return to Judea but because Herod's ruthless son Archelaus had been made "ethnarch" over Judea, Samaria, and Idumea, Joseph was afraid for Jesus' safety. The Lord again directed Joseph in a dream. Joseph went instead to Galilee, where another of Herod's sons Herod Antipas was ruling. The family naturally returned to Nazareth which was the home of both Joseph and Mary (Luke 1:26-27) before their journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. While the choice of their home town seems a natural place to settle, Matthew reveals that the Lord was directing the fulfillment of prophecy: "He shall be called a Nazarene" (2:23). While this prophecy is never recorded in the Old Testament, Nazareth was a despised place (John 1:46) and a Nazarene was someone who was rejected or detestable. The Old Testament prophets clearly portray the Messiah as one who is despised (Psalm 22:6-8, 13; 69:8, 20-21; Isa. 11:1, 53:2-3). Several Old Testament passages are eventually fulfilled through Jesus' characterization as a Nazarene.

Conclusion

In the second chapter of Matthew, the apostle continues to prove to His audience that the Old Testament confirms that Jesus is the Messiah, the King of the Jews. Besides the four prophecies, both foreign wise men, a Roman supported king, and Jewish scribes and priests all accepted that Jesus had been born the King of the Jews. But their response to Jesus varies dramatically. While the wise men worshiped Jesus, Herod rejected his right to reign completely and sought his death, and the Jewish priests and scribe simply ignored His presence. Matthew poses the same question to his readers that today's readers must answer: How will they respond to the King of the Jews? The lost must submit to Him as King, repent of their sins and trust in His sacrifice while those who are saved must continually rejoice exceedingly that they have been counted worthy of worshiping and obeying the King of the Jews.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

*"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth."
—Psalm 78:1*

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Where does Jesus' family tree begin in Matthew?
Matthew begins Jesus' family tree with Abraham.

What are the names of Jesus in Matthew 1?
Jesus is called: "The Lord is Salvation"; Immanuel: "God with us"; Christ: "Anointed One"; Son of David; and Son of Abraham.

Who was Jesus' mother and who was she pledged to be married to?
Mary was Jesus' mother and she was pledged to be married to Joseph.

What did the Angel of the Lord tell Joseph to name the baby?
Jesus

Was Joseph obedient to the Angel of the Lord's instructions?
Yes, Joseph took Mary as his wife. Mary gave birth to a son, who they named Jesus.



Treasure Hunt

Before class, hide some objects which relate to the lesson around the room (star, baby blanket, crown, etc.). Have the children go on a treasure hunt to see what they are able to find. You may want to give a few pointers or clues to assist them. Today's lesson is about some men who traveled half way across the world in search of treasure. They were not looking for a valuable thing, but a valuable person—the king of the Jews. God also gave them a pointer to help them, but more about that in the lesson.

Variation: Use a laser pointer to direct the class around the room to find the hidden objects. The objects can be used later in the lesson for teaching time.



Responding to the King

What if I told you that the President was coming over for dinner? What if the king or queen of England was coming? How would you respond? With news like that most of us would begin right away to prepare for the night of our lives. That someone with such authority and power would choose to visit you would be incredible honor! Now imagine that your visitor was going to be Jesus Christ the Messiah. He has all power and authority in heaven and earth is going to visit you. Well, the world faced a similar situation at the birth of Christ. God was coming in the form of a man to live on earth. In today's lesson we see several ways in which people responded to this special visitation.



Look for the Star

Paste stars up all over the classroom. Each star should have a Messianic prophecy on it. As the students arrive, give them each a Scripture reference and ask them to search for the star that has that particular verse on it. Once they have found it, have them bring it to the teacher.



A Special Star

Have the students trace stars on a sheet of paper and then discuss how God made the stars and how beautiful they are. Tell them that this morning they will hear about a special star that had a very special job.



Arrival of the Wise Men

The journey and worship of the wise men is familiar to many children, but they may not have heard the events told from the perspective of the wise men. While the students are looking for the stars (see Look for the Star activity), have one or more wise men arrive in the classroom. They, too, are looking for the star they saw in the sky. They are looking for the King of Israel. They can tell the students where they have traveled, a little bit about themselves, and why they are trying to find this King. They can talk to the students about the gifts they are bringing and how special it will be to present these gifts to this King.



What's It Worth

Bring pictures of items to place around the room. Use a variety of items ranging in value from little to much to priceless (i.e., a newborn baby, the moon). Give each student a piece of paper. Ask the students to go around the room and look at each picture, then write the items down in the order in which they believe their worth to be (least to most). Lead a discussion about which items they valued most and why. How did they determine worth? Is it more difficult to place a value on things that cannot be purchased or those that can be? Finally discuss what the value of God's Son would be. Ask the students what they would choose to bring as a gift to the new born Jesus.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done." —Psalm 78:4

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Passage Outline

The Arrival of the Wise Men (Matt. 2:1–2)

The Worry of Herod (Matt. 2:3–8)

The Worship of the Wise Men (Matt. 2:9–12)

The Warning of Joseph (Matt. 2:13–15)

The Wrath of Herod (Matt. 2:16–18)

The Return of Jesus (Matt. 2:19–22)

Introduction

All of us have responded to something in life. We have either jumped back in pain after touching a hot stove, become sad when hearing of the sickness of a friend, or rejoiced when celebrating a birthday, all of which are responses to a particular situation. Well, today we read about men who responded to the birth of Christ Jesus the King. In Matthew 2 we find those who responded both correctly and incorrectly to the arrival of the Messiah. With the presence of this new King on earth, let us now see how God faithfully protected His Son during the following events after His birth.



Lead-off Questions (LOQ's)

LOQ: What was the similar question that both King Herod and the wise men were asking regarding the birth of Christ Jesus?

Answer: Where was Jesus to be born?

LOQ: After being asked about the birthplace of Jesus, how do we see the priests and teachers of the law responding to the arrival of Jesus?

Answer: The chief priests and scribes simply ignore the coming of Jesus the Messiah.

LOQ: What prophecy was fulfilled in the birthplace of Jesus?

Answer: In Micah 5:2 the prophet wrote that the shepherd of Israel (Jesus Christ) would come out of a town called Bethlehem.

LOQ: How were the wise men led to the King of the Jews?

Answer: God had appointed a star to direct the wise men to the place where Jesus was living.

LOQ: What was the wise men's response to the birth of Jesus?

Answer: They were overjoyed (5:10), and sought to worship Him with the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (5:11).

LOQ: How did God use the wise men to protect the newborn Messiah?

Answer: God revealed to them in a dream that Herod sought to take the life of baby Jesus. They were warned not to go back to inform him of Jesus' location.

LOQ: How did God protect His Son Jesus after the wise men left from worshipping Him?

Answer: God gave Joseph a dream, warning him to flee Israel and escape to Egypt with his family.

LOQ: What prophesy was fulfilled in this great escape?

Answer: Jesus had to flee to Egypt, which is similar to the prophesy in Hosea 11:1 that speaks of God's love displayed in the rescuing of His people who were in Egypt.

LOQ: What was King Herod's reaction to the wise men that never returned?

Answer: King Herod was full of rage, and ordered that all the children who were two years or younger in the area of Bethlehem were to be killed.

LOQ: What can we tell about Herod's response to Jesus in his killing of all of the children?

Answer: Herod despised Jesus because he knew that He was from the line of David, and would be a rival to his throne.

LOQ: What prophesy did Herod's killing of innocent children fulfill?

Answer: The prophesy that was fulfilled was given by the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah said that there would be mothers weeping over their dead children in Israel. (Jeremiah 31:15)

LOQ: After the death of Herod, how did God again protect Jesus and His family?

Answer: God spoke to Joseph in yet another dream, explaining to him that because of Herod's death, it was safe for him and his family to go back to Israel.

LOQ: What prophesy was fulfilled when Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus settled in Nazareth?

Answer: Joseph and his family settled in a town called Nazareth in Galilee. Nazareth was a despised and lowly place. Jesus was said to be despised and rejected in the sight of others because He grew up in Nazareth (Psalm 22:6-8; Isa. 11:1; 53:2-3).

LOQ: What is important about the fulfillment of four separate prophecies in the birth of Jesus?

Answer: God worked in the lives of Joseph and Mary to reveal that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, King of the Jews.

LOQ: How did the wise men and Herod respond to Jesus in Matthew 2?

Answer: The wise men responded correctly by worshipping Jesus, and King Herod responded incorrectly by wanting to kill Him.

Summary

The book of Matthew continues to show us that Jesus is the Messiah. The fact that God sovereignly protected His Son throughout the beginning of His life gives evidence that He is indeed the Son of God. The wise men, the Roman king, and the Jewish priests had all accepted the fact that Jesus had been born the King of the Jews. Yet their responses to this King were drastically different. Where the wise men responded correctly in worship, King Herod and the Jewish priests responded incorrectly by failing to honor the Messiah.

Application

The question that remains for us today is “How are we going to respond to Jesus the King?” Those who have not accepted Christ Jesus as Savior will die in their sins, and should therefore respond in repentance before God, and in submission before the King. Regardless of the response, God desires obedience from those who love Him, just as He did from Joseph. Because of this, we who are saved should rejoice that we have been granted the gift of being able to worship and obey Christ Jesus the King.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

Use appropriate A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards® with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannel

Use appropriate flannel graph pieces with the lesson.



Monarch Monologue vs. Magi Monologue

Directions: Ask two adults to study the passage in Matthew 2, one from the perspective of King Herod and one from the perspective of the wise men. Each adult should prepare a five-minute monologue that he will present to the class during the lesson. The volunteers should also dress in proper attire when they portray their character. After each monologue is given, lead a discussion with the class regarding how the two men responded differently to the birth of Jesus Christ.



Moving Around

Today's lesson has a number of dramatic scenes, each of which is surrounded by extensive travel. There is the scene wherein the wise men appear before King Herod; the wise men's worship of the boy Jesus; the sojourn in Egypt and finally the return to Galilee. If your classroom allows, this lesson can be taught by decorating four rooms or four corners of the room and allowing the children to “travel” with you to the various locations to witness the unfolding of the events. Try to help the children understand something of the wonder, treachery and fear associated with each of these scenes as well as the remarkable providence of God throughout.



Gift Giving

The wise men's gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh are a prominent feature of today's Bible lesson. The wise men were, however, not the only ones to give “gifts” to Jesus. Herod's birthday gift was an attempt to kill the young boy. Although the Jews did not give Jesus such a hurtful gift, they gave Him no gift at all. The lesson may be taught by bringing four wrapped gifts into the class. These can be

unwrapped during the lesson and used to explain how the various people responded to the birth of the King. The final gift represents the children's own gift. What will they give the King? He does not just want our possessions, but rather our whole life (Rom. 12:1–2). This provides a good opportunity to explain to the children how they should respond to God's gift to us in Christ.

Praise and Worship

O Worship the King

Praise the Name of Jesus

Trust and Obey

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." —Psalm 78:7

Choose ideas from this section that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Prophecy Lift-the-Flap

Materials: copies of craft pages on cardstock, scissors, glue, crayons

Directions: Pass out cardstock pages and scissors to each student. Instruct students to cut along the sides and bottom of the Old Testament prophecy squares on the top page, leaving the top attached so the prophecy square can be pulled up to reveal the fulfillment in Matthew. Younger students may need help, poking their scissors through the paper to begin cutting out the squares. As students finish cutting all four squares, tell them they may color in the pictures on the bottom page. Once students have colored the pictures, they may glue the top page on top of the bottom page by spreading glue along the edges, and around the squares on the bottom page. Guide the students to line up the papers around the edges so the entire prophecy fulfillment will show. Stick the top page on the bottom page, and allow time for the glue to dry. Encourage the students to use the Prophecy Lift-the-Flap to review the four prophecies taught in the lesson at home.



Traveling Timeline

Materials: copies of craft pages on cardstock, scissors, string (three, six-inch, pre-cut strings per student), hole punch, two metal brads per student

Directions: Pass out the Traveling Timeline, cut-out shapes, and scissors to each student. Instruct students to cut along the two, horizontal lines on the timeline paper (this step could be prepared in advance by an adult using a rotary cutter). Instruct students to punch holes below the city signs where the circles are printed. Next, Instruct students to cut out the shapes of the star, the box around the wise men, and the three boxes with review facts from the wise men's journey. Instruct students to use the hole punch again to punch holes in the circles at the top, center of each review fact box. Model how to punch a brad through the circles centered on the star and wise men, and then how to attach each shape to the horizontal lines on the timeline paper. Stick the brad through the line on the far right of the timeline, and then open each end of the brad perpendicular to the line. Finally, instruct students to read the review fact boxes, and decide which facts go with

each city. Instruct the students to tie the boxes under the correct city signs using the string. Model how to tie a knot where each hole was punched. The signs will hang below the timeline. Show the students how to move the wise men from city to city, and the supernatural star from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. Students may use the Traveling Timeline at home to review the events of the wise men coming to worship Jesus.



Whom Do You Worship?

Discussion: Ask the students the following questions:

1. To what do the actions of your lives point?
2. Do others see clues that you worship the true King?
3. Is He Lord of your lives?
4. Have you searched for Him?
5. What gifts do you have that you could give to Him? (Time in reading their Bibles; prayer; sharing Him with others; obedience to His Word and their parents; worship; praise; etc.)
6. Have you given your gifts to Him?

Star Snack

Serve star cookies or finger Jell-o cut in star shapes. What does the star remind them of?



“Jesus is worshiped”

Use this worksheet to reinforce the key truths of today’s lesson. The worksheet is located at the back of the lesson.



2
3

Small Group Activity: “Worshipping Christ”

Use this worksheet in a small group. Lead the students in discussing the questions and their answers. The worksheet is located at the back of the lesson.



MEMORY VERSE

“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” —*Matthew 2:2*

Prophecy Lift-the-Flap

"But you, Bethlehem
Ephrathah, Though you are
little among the thousands of
Judah, Yet out of you shall
come forth to Me the One to
be Ruler in Israel, whose
goings forth are from of old,
from everlasting."
—*Micah 5:2*

"When Israel was a child, I
loved him, and out of Egypt I
called my son."
—*Hosea 11:1*

"Thus says the Lord:
'A voice was heard in
Ramah, Lamentation and bit-
ter weeping, Rachel weeping
for her children, refusing to be
comforted for her children,
because they are no more.'"
—*Jeremiah 31:15*

"He is despised and rejected
by men, a Man of sorrows
and acquainted with grief.
And we hid, as it were, our
faces from Him; He was
despised, and we did not
esteem Him."
—*Isaiah 53:3*

Prophecy Lift-the-Flap



“And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet.’”
—Matthew 2:4–5



“Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, ‘Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.’” —Matthew 2:13



“Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.” —Matthew 2:16



“But when he (Joseph) heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth...”
—Matthew 2:22–23

Traveling Timeline

- Wise men were warned in a dream to not return to Herod.
- Wise men departed for their own country another way.

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- Wise men followed the supernatural star to Bethlehem.
- Wise men worshiped Jesus.
- Wise men presented Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

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- Wise men asked King Herod where the "King of the Jews" was born.
- King Herod asked where Christ was to be born and was told Bethlehem.
- King Herod lied to the wise men about wanting to worship Jesus.

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Traveling Timeline



Jerusalem



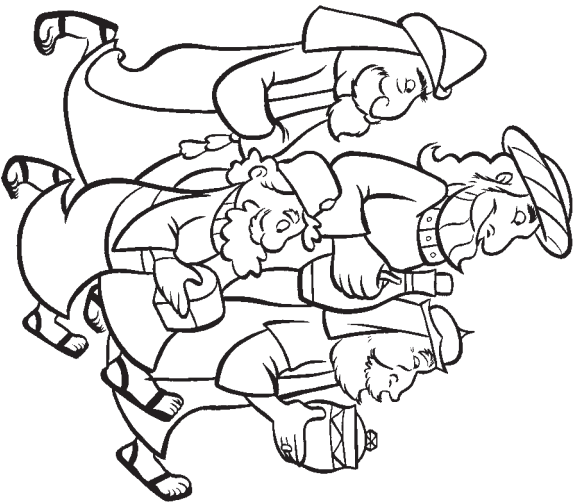
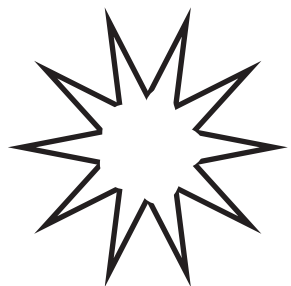
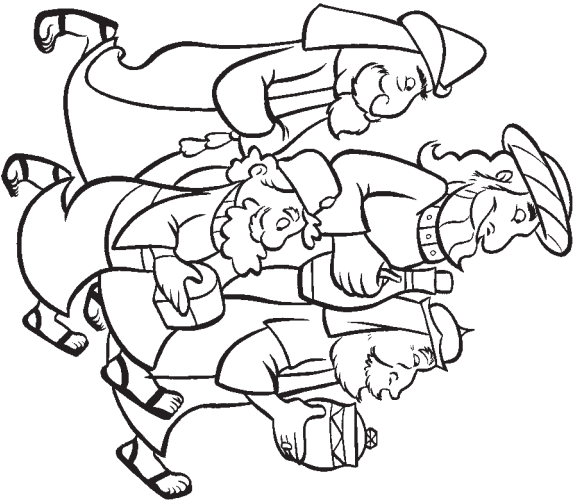
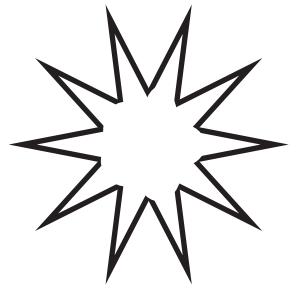
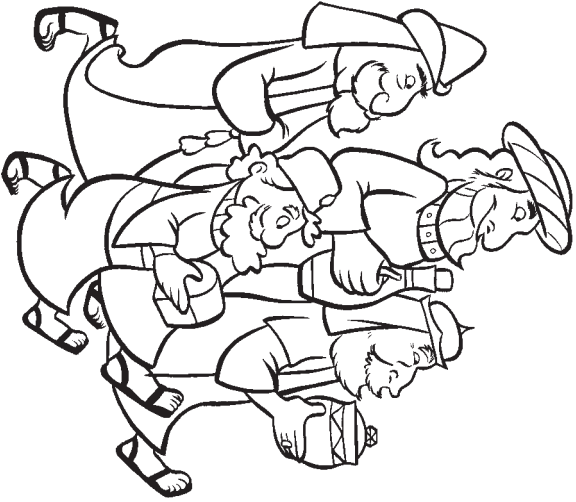
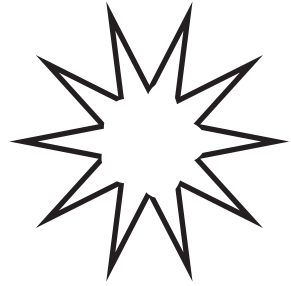
Bethlehem



The East



Traveling Timeline



Jesus *is* worshiped



Matthew 2

Name _____

1. Who came from the East to worship Jesus? _____

2. Who was troubled when he heard about the King of the Jews? _____

3. True or False: Herod wanted to worship Jesus. _____

4. What did the wise men follow to find Jesus? _____

5. The angel told Joseph to flee Egypt because Herod wanted to _____ Jesus.

6. What did Herod do when he saw that he had been deceived by the wise men?

7. Put the following words in the correct order: king, Egypt, wept, Bethlehem.

To fulfill prophecy, Jesus was born in _____, was called
out of _____, mothers _____ over their slain children,
and Jesus was called a _____.

Worshipping Christ

“Where is He, who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” —*Matthew 2:2*

Before you were born, your parents probably told all their friends and relatives that you were going to be born, and when your birth day finally came, I am sure all of them were very happy. But what if someone, after hearing the news of your birth, said to your parents, “That’s not your baby!”? How do you think your parents would have responded? They probably would have thought that person was very confused, especially since your parents had your birth certificate and hospital records to prove otherwise. In a similar way, when Christ was born, some people responded in disbelief even though they had something far more valuable than a birth certificate or hospital records to prove that Christ was God’s Son, the King of the Jews—they had God’s Word.

God spoke His word through the prophet Micah who said, “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, through you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old from everlasting.” —Micah 5:2.

Yet, some people did not believe. Below, are listed some people from Matthew 2. In the space next to the person’s name, put a **N** (for no) if the person did not show believing faith (worshiped Christ) or a **Y** (for yes) if the person did have believing faith.

All Jerusalem ____ (v.3) **Wise men** ____ (v.11) **King Herod** ____ (v. 16)

Matthew 2:3 states that Herod and all Jerusalem were troubled when they heard this. Why do you think they were troubled by such good news? Write your thoughts in the space below.

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In Luke 19:23, when Christ makes His triumphal entry on a donkey, His followers rejoice and praise God with a loud voice saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!" You can chose to believe in Him from your heart and worship Him, too.

I believe that Christ is:

because God's Word says in _____ that He is:

I can worship Christ as King by:

PRAYER

In this space write your prayer of worship to God:

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PRAYER

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“When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.” —Matthew 2:9



The Lord spoke to Joseph in a dream and said, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him" (Matt. 2:13).

