

VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

Matt 2:1-14

Prepare to hear the Word:

- Frankincense was a valuable powder that was burned to make a sweet smell. Myrrh was a valuable sweet-smelling powder often used in perfume.
- It would have been common in Jesus' day for travelers to have carried gold with them.
- Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Bethlehem was also the birthplace of King David.
- Find Bethlehem and Jerusalem, in Judea, on a map, also Egypt.
- The Wise Men were Magi a name for Astrologers.

You will need:

- 3D figures of infant Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Nativity Set)
- Three wise men with gifts, an angel (Nativity Set)
- Long brown strip of road,
- Desert coloured base
- A large Star

When children are seated in a semi-circle ready to listen to the story, place the gold box/bag, containing the materials you will need, carefully beside you.

Pick up Jesus and place him in a manger.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Pick up Mary and Joseph and place them near the manger with the baby Jesus.

His mother's name was Mary, her husband's name was Joseph.

Move the wise men along the road towards the stable.

After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east asked King Herod where they might find the baby who was born to be 'King of the Jews'

Hold up the star above the stable and then continue, moving the three wise men along the road to stand in front of the stable.

They had seen his "star" and followed it to Jerusalem.

Move the wise men to give their three gifts to the baby Jesus one at time.

When they found Jesus in Bethlehem, the wise men gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh

Then move the wise men to journey back home:

But they went home by a different way that did not pass King Herod.

Use a hand gesture to point to King Herod, saying:

When King Herod heard that the wise men had found a new king in Bethlehem, he was very angry. He sent his soldiers to find Jesus in Bethlehem.

Move Joseph and gather Mary and Jesus and set them on the road and say:

God sent an angel in a dream, to warn Joseph that the soldiers were searching for Jesus. So that night Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt. They stayed there until it was safe for them to go back home to Nazareth.

The Gospel of the Lord

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

I Wonder:

- I wonder why the wise men brought presents of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?
- I wonder why King Herod was angry when he heard who the wise men were searching for?
- I wonder how Joseph and Mary felt about having to go to a new land?

The Wise Men

Matt 2:1-14

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem.

Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. He told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too."

The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star.

When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him. Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.

After the wise men had gone, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Hurry and take the child and his mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill him."

That night, Joseph got up and took his wife and the child to Egypt, where they stayed until Herod died. So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "I called my son out of Egypt."

Prepare to hear the Word: Teacher

- Gifts of gold and frankincense brought by kings were mentioned in Isaiah 60:3-6, and Matthew would have been familiar with this text. Myrrh was his own addition. The point is that they gave what they had.
- Matthew's story shone further light on his understanding of fulfilling prophecy. In Jesus, the prophets' irrepressible hope in God's faithful saving action was realized.
- There is no mention of how many kings or Magi there were, nor their names. Three has come from the number of gifts mentioned by Matthew.

Together on the Mountain John McKinnon 2007