

## EXPLORING THE GIFTS OF THE WISE MEN ☆

**In this activity, children will use their senses to explore similar gifts to those that the wise men gave Jesus, and they will learn how valuable these gifts were.**

by Lauren Shelnutt

### TOPICS:

Birth of Jesus, Giving

### MATERIALS:

- Treasure box/wooden box/large jewelry box
- Several pieces of costume jewelry that look like gold or fake gold coins
- A bottle of perfume or cologne
- A large scented candle (a distinct smell like cinnamon or vanilla—nothing floral)
- Wrapping paper and ribbon/bows
- Baby doll wrapped in a blanket or picture of Baby Jesus
- Large box or bag to hide the gifts from children's sight



### DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

### PREPARATION:

Spend time gathering the materials needed and try to "dress up" objects to make them look like gifts. The wrapping doesn't have to be ornate or elaborate but it builds excitement for the children. Then, use a large box or bag to keep the gifts out of sight until the children are ready to begin the activity. Set out a picture of Jesus in the manger, or wrap a baby doll in a blanket to look like Jesus and place in a prominent place in the classroom.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Instruct the class to sit in a circle on the classroom floor with the bag of gifts at your side.

Say, "When Jesus was born the wise men searched for Jesus for a very long time by following a star. When they arrived, they gave special gifts to Jesus—gifts fit for a king! Today, I want to show you some special gifts that are similar to the gifts and treasures that were given to Jesus so long ago. First, they gave Jesus frankincense." *[Pull the wrapped candle out of the bag].*

Pass the wrapped candle around and ask the children to hold it and touch it; making guesses about what the gift could be. Then, pass the gift around to the children and allow them to each rip a small piece of wrapping paper off the gift until they fully reveal the candle. Then, pass the candle around allowing the kids to smell it.

Say, "This isn't exactly frankincense like in the Bible, but frankincense was an exceptional and very costly gift. When you light frankincense it gives off a wonderful smell that fills the whole house—just like a candle! Doesn't it smell good?"

Pull the box filled with "gold" out. Allow the children to shake the box and try to figure out what the gift is by guessing. Then, allow them to pass it around the circle pulling pieces of wrapping paper off. When the box is unveiled, open it and say, "The wise men also gave the gift of gold. Kings and queens usually had lots of gold. So, the wise men wanted to give a very costly gift of gold to King Jesus. But they didn't stop there—they brought a third amazing and expensive gift to honor Jesus."

Finally, pull out the perfume. Allow the kids to inspect it and guess its contents by touching, shaking, and even smelling the wrapped perfume bottle.

Say, "The final gift the wise men brought is called Myrrh. Myrrh was a very expensive, special perfume used only on very extraordinary occasions because it cost so much money. The wise men gave gifts to Jesus that cost them dearly. We need to learn from the wise men and take our treasures, talents, and gifts and be willing to give them up for Jesus. Christmas is Jesus' birthday and we need to remember that Christmas is all about praising Him!"

Instruct children to carefully take the three gifts and put them by the Baby Jesus and tell Him, "Happy Birthday."

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## THE CHARACTERS OF CHRISTMAS

### LESSON 1: WISE MEN WORSHIP ☆

Lessons in this series: 1 [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [Overview](#)

*In this lesson, the children will learn about the importance of seeking Jesus and praising Him for coming to earth to save us!*  
by Lauren Shelnett

#### TOPICS

Birth of Christ, Christmas, Wisdom

#### AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 MINUTES)

**The Wise Men and the Star (Coloring Page)** [Click here](#)

#### WORSHIP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

#### BIBLE VERSE (5 MINUTES)

**"You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13 NIV**

This verse tells us that if we look for Jesus like the wise men we will find Him because He wants us to find Him and grow close to Him!

#### Act out the verse for the children using the following motions:

You (*point out*)

will seek (*form hands like binoculars in searching motion*)

Me (*sign language for "Jesus" pointing to nail marks in hands*)

and find Me (*sign language for "Jesus" pointing to nail marks in hands*)

When you (*point out*)

Search (*form hands like binoculars in searching motion*)

for Me (*sign language for "Jesus" pointing to nail marks in hands*)

With all your heart (*cross your heart with arms; sign for "Love"*)

#### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After the introduction, read the story about the birth of Jesus directly from the Bible. If possible, use a children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

#### Introduction:

It's time for our Bible story for today. Anytime we read the Bible we can remember that it's God's Holy Word. The Christmas story is my favorite story because it helps us learn more and celebrate Jesus' Birthday! This week our story is about the wise men and how they looked for Jesus. They did not give up until they found Him. They celebrated His birth with special gifts because He is special and deserves our praise and treasures.

#### Read Matthew 2:1—12. (The Wise Men Seek Jesus)

As you read the passage to the children, ask them to listen to what the wise men did to find Jesus and what they did when they found Him.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What do the wise men follow to help them find Jesus? (*A Star*)
2. What is the name of Jesus' mother? (*Mary.*)
3. What do the wise men do when they saw Jesus? (*They worshipped Jesus.*)
4. What do the wise men give to Jesus? (*Presents; Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh*)

**Conclusion:** The wise men do everything they can to find Jesus, and it takes them a while to find Him. However, they do not give up. When they find Him, they praise Him and give him special treasures that are worth a lot of money—fit for a king! Jesus deserves our praise, worship, and our treasures. We can learn from the wise men that we need to remember to look for Jesus at Christmas. We can also try hard to remember to praise Him because that's what Christmas is all about!

#### FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)

**Find the Baby (Game)** [Click here](#)

#### ALTERNATE FUN TIME (15 MINUTES)

**Seeking Binoculars (Craft)** [Click here](#)

#### PRAYER/SNACK (10 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

For today's snack, provide Hershey's Kisses®. While eating, discuss what kind of gifts the children would bring to Jesus on His birthday. The Kisses, wrapped in shiny foil can represent the kinds of presents that the wise men brought to Jesus so long ago.

#### CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 MINUTES)

**Exploring the Gifts of the Wise Men (Activity)** [Click here](#)

#### NEXT WEEK

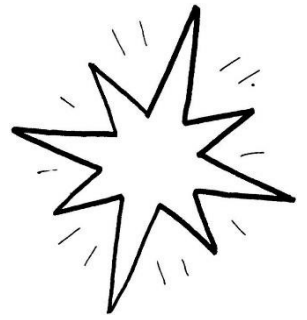
Come back next week to learn about other characters that were there when Jesus was born.

**TAKE HOME PAGE**

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home [PDF]. [Click here](#)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## The Wise Men & The Star



*The wise men asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:2 NIV*

## THE WISE MEN AND THE STAR ☆

*The wise men did everything they could to find Jesus. It took them a long time because they were only following a star. When they found Him, they gave Him special gifts and praised Him!*

*by Lauren Shelnutt*

### TOPICS:

Birth of Jesus

### MATERIALS:

Coloring page [PDF] [NIV](#) or [KJV](#)

Crayons or colored markers

### DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



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## FIND THE BABY ☆

*In this activity, children will play a fun game of "Hide & Seek" to find the Baby Jesus using stars as clues just as the wise men did.*  
by Lauren Shelnett

### TOPICS:

Birth of Jesus

### MATERIALS:

Activity Page [PDF] [Click here](#)

Tape

Scissors



### DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

### PREPARATION:

Print and cut out the activity page(s). Each child will need one star and one Baby Jesus.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Before class, tape pictures of Baby Jesus around the room where they will be easy for children to find. Cover each picture of Baby Jesus with a picture of a star. You will then call children by name to find a star. Have each child look underneath the star to find Baby Jesus. The child will then return to his or her seat with both the star and Baby Jesus.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Long ago, the wise men sought to find the place where Jesus was born so that they could bring Him gifts and worship Him. Today, we are going to play a special game called, "Find the Baby." In just a minute we are going to take turns looking for Baby Jesus. The Bible tells us that the wise men only had one way of finding out where Jesus was—they followed a big star up in the sky. Today, we will take turns looking around the room to see if we can find stars in the room. Do you see them? In just a second I'm going to have you go one at a time to follow the star. When you find a star, look underneath it and see what you find. When someone in our class finds the Baby Jesus we all need to cheer "Yay, Jesus!" to praise Him, just like the wise men did. Let's practice that and pretend someone found a picture of Jesus under a star...Ready? 1...2...3... "YAY, JESUS!" Okay, now that we are all excited, let's take turns until all the pictures are found! There is one for each of you, so let's seek Jesus!

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## SEEKING BINOCULARS ☆

***In this activity, children will create a pair of binoculars to remind them to look for Jesus and seek Him daily.***

*by Lauren Shelnutt*

### TOPICS:

Following Jesus

### MATERIALS:

Toilet paper tube  
Colored construction paper  
Tape  
Star Stickers  
Marker  
Crayons (*optional*)



[Click here for visual instructions](#)

### DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

### PREPARATION:

Before class, cut construction paper in half vertically. In the center of each slip, write "Wise men still seek Jesus today!" Each child will need one sheet.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Allow the children to decorate their paper with crayons and stickers. Then individually help the children roll their construction paper—design side out—around the toilet paper roll. Once the construction paper is wrapped around the tube one time, slide the tube up and use a piece of tape to hold the paper in place at the bottom. Slide the tube out and tape the top as well. Repeat this process with the remaining side. Use a piece of tape to connect both sides of the rolled-up paper together for additional sturdiness. [Click here for visual instructions](#)

Allow kids to go exploring around the room holding their binoculars up to their eyes. Remind them to always seek after Jesus just like the wise men did!

**Timesaving Option:** Make a pair of binoculars for each child before class and then allow students to decorate their binoculars gently with star stickers.

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## SEEKING BINOCULARS



Children decorate and/or color their paper strip with crayons and stickers.

Then individually help the children roll their construction paper—design side out—around the toilet paper roll.



Once the construction paper is wrapped around the tube one time, slide the tube up and use a piece of tape to hold the paper in place at the bottom as pictured. Slide the tube out and tape the top as well. Repeat this process with the remaining side.

Use a piece of tape to connect both sides of the rolled-up paper together for additional sturdiness.

