



Date: _____
Series: Real Life Stories of God Sightings
Winter Year 3, Lesson 33

Wise Men Visit Jesus

Take Home Point: *Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of our lives. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Matthew 2:1-12

Key Verse: Matthew 2:11, "When they entered the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary. So they bowed down and worshiped him."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of the wise men visiting Jesus, recognizing him as born king of the Jews.
- The wise men gave gifts because Jesus was King.
- Jesus is our Savior who rescues us from separation from God, but he is also our Lord whom we follow.
- The definition of the word "Lord" when it applies to Jesus is that he is our Master, our Leader, and the God whom we desire to obey.




We will help kids feel:

- Love for Jesus so that they might gladly follow him as Lord.
- The challenge of giving all of themselves to him.

We will help kids do:

- Identify characteristics of Jesus as the King.
- Identify things in our lives that are hard to give up.
- Make a wise man's star by folding Jesus dollars together. They remind us of Jesus as King of kings and Lord over all we have.
- Offer a prayer that surrenders all to Jesus--all that they are and all they have. He will be Lord of their lives.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Using a Jesus dollar as a discussion starter, kids are asked to consider how difficult it would be to give up something valuable if God asked them to do so.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> large Jesus dollar from Dock Haley Gospel Magic Co. catalog. To request a catalog or place an order, call (615) 885-4800 or visit the website at www.gospelmagic.com.
Large Group 	4 7	Overview Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Finds a King”—Gordy wants to collect money from the visiting king until he sees how the guest visitor, King Melchoir, gave gifts to the King of kings, Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordy bag taped to Gordy’s hand or set to the side. The bag reads “Put money here.” three gift-wrapped boxes rock painted gold perfumed oil in a sandwich bag that is sealed tightly talcum powder mixed with perfumed oil someone costumed as a wise man (If the costuming for a wise man is too hard to find, it might be appropriate to have a more modestly costumed person pretend to be a servant of one of the kings.)
Small Group Application 	4	Kids discuss what it means to let Jesus reign as King of kings and Lord of lords in their lives. They make a Wise Man’s Star from Jesus dollars as a reminder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> large Jesus dollars (two per child) “Wise Man’s Star” folding pattern (see appendix) scissors or tape, depending on which folding pattern is used

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Today's concept is difficult for kids (and for adults even) to grasp. Any personal examples given by the shepherd would be especially helpful.

Supplies needed: large Jesus dollar

Show kids the Jesus dollar and ask:

Name one thing that is yours and more valuable to you than money.

Have each child hold the Jesus dollar while answering the question. After answering, pass the dollar to the next child ready to answer.

How hard would it be to give this thing up if God asked you to give it to him?

What would be hard about giving this thing away?

Let kids pass the Jesus dollar around as they share. Encourage them to discuss the concept of surrendering something precious.

Continue with:

The Jesus dollar reminds us how costly it might be to give up to God things that we really like. The Jesus dollar also reminds us that it was God who first gave himself up for us.

In today's lesson we will discover that since **Jesus is King of kings and Lord over our lives;* we do surrender all that we have to him. We do so by using all of our resources in ways that bring him glory. We also find out that as we surrender things to him, he gives them back to us in ways that are far more wonderful than if we tried to selfishly keep them to ourselves.

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Finds a King”—Gordy wants to collect money from the visiting king until he sees how the guest visitor, King Melchoir, gave gifts to the King of kings, Jesus.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

With Bibles open to Matthew 2:1-12, briefly review the story. Try to adjust the questions to fit the reading and learning level of the children.

The Magi were called wise men and sometimes they were also called kings. Where were they from? *(Matthew 2:1. Far away, from the East, Persia.)*

What led them to Judea? *(Matthew 2:2. They had followed the star of the King and wanted to worship him.)*

Where was the Messiah, the promised one, supposed to be born? *(Matthew 2:5. In Bethlehem.)*

How did King Herod find out where the Messiah was to be born? *(Matthew 2:4-5. The scribes and the priests were called in to research the prophecy.)*

Where did the wise men find Jesus and what led them there? *(Matthew 2:9-11. The star led them to the house where Jesus was in Bethlehem.)*

What gifts did the wise men offer Jesus? *(Matthew 2:11. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh)*

Why did the wise men not go back and tell Herod they had found Jesus? *(Matthew 2:12. God warned them not to go back in a dream.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

When meeting a king, is it customary to give gifts to a king or to receive gifts from a king? *(To give gifts.)*

So how did the wise men show they considered Jesus to be a king over them? *(They gave him extravagant gifts fit for a king.)*

For deeper thought or older kids:

How did these gifts symbolize who Jesus was and what he would do in his life? *(The gold is the most valuable metal. It is a gift for a king. Jesus is the King of kings. The frankincense is a gift for priests to anoint sacrifices. Jesus is our high priest who prays for us and also was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Myrrh is used to anoint dead bodies, foreshadowing Jesus' death for us.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: large Jesus dollars (two per child), "Wise Man's Star" folding pattern (see appendix), scissors or tape, depending on which folding pattern is used

Pass out two Jesus dollars to each child. Have the kids make observations about what they see on the Jesus dollars.

Which of these things describe ways that Jesus is the King?

After discussion, talk about what it means to have Jesus as your own King or Lord.

What does it mean to say to Jesus, "I will serve you with all that I have and I give everything up to you?"

Help kids to understand that as they offer things to Jesus, he does not just take those things into heaven. Jesus gives those things back to us so that we might use them in ways that bring glory to him. It is important that the kids see that Jesus has the right to be Lord over our entire lives. Even our most precious possessions are his. When we offer them to him, he blesses those things and uses them for his Kingdom and for our best.

Today's key verse is Matthew 2:11, ***"When they entered the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary. So they bowed down and worshiped him."***

Just as the Magi from the East gave the Baby Jesus extravagant gifts, God would want us also to stop at nothing in what we offer the King of kings. He especially wants our worship and praise like the Magi bowed down and worshiped Jesus.

Boys and girls, now we are going to fold these dollars to make stars. The stars will remind us of the star that guided the wise men to Jesus. ****Jesus was the King of kings and the Lord of lords over their lives. We, too, want *Jesus to be King of kings and Lord over our lives.***

When we take our stars home, they will remind us that Jesus is Lord over our lives, as well. Since the stars are made of money, it reminds us that we want to give Jesus the gift of all that we have. He will give us back all that we have so that it might be used for him.

****There are two options for folding the "Wise Man's Stars" with the Jesus dollars. The advanced fold included in the appendix is challenging and best done by third or fourth graders. First and second graders should follow the simple folding pattern for the "Wise Man's Stars."*

Closing Prayer:

After folding the dollars, gather the kids to pray. Thank Jesus that he came as our King and gave his life for us. Also pray that we would give our lives to him and follow him as our King and Lord.

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Large Group Presentation

Gordy Finds a King

Puppet Presentation

Take Home Point: **Jesus is King of kings and Lord of our lives.*

The presenter will role play as an investigative reporter looking for real life stories of God sightings. Gordy will serve as his sidekick detective.

Props needed:

- *“Real Life Stories of God Sightings” sign*
- *any props to create the setting of a live interview such as a director’s scene board clapped in front of the camera before the action goes live*
- *backdrops of palm trees and first century Judea villages could be used—use your imagination and facility to create a setting that resembles the landscape of Jesus’ birth*

Costumes:

- *The investigative reporter (presenter) needs costuming that fits his role—add a baseball cap with a front label, “God Watcher,” or the character could also sit behind a desk in a suit coat and tie*
- *A child volunteer with safari-like costume*
- *Gordy would need a similar hat and could be in a safari shirt and/or have a set of binoculars around his neck*
- *Adult volunteer costumed to look like a biblical wise man*

Each week the puppet drama will involve a volunteer looking for clues that give the identity of the person interviewed. After the child finds the clues, the character will enter and give his or her story based on the interview questions posed by the investigative reporter.

Other supplies needed: a bag taped to Gordy’s hand or set to the side with a sign that reads “Put money here;” three gift-wrapped boxes with one of the following inside: a rock painted gold, perfumed oil in a sandwich bag that is sealed tightly, talcum powder mixed with perfumed oil; someone costumed as a wise man (Option: if wise man costume is too hard to find, have a more modestly costumed person pretend to be a servant of one of the kings.)

Three gift-wrapped boxes should be hidden in the room prior to beginning Large Group. In one box is a rock painted gold which represents the gold the kings gave to Jesus. The second box has some perfumed oil in a sandwich bag that is sealed tightly. The oil stands for frankincense that was fragrant oil used to anoint sacrifices. The third box

contains a baggie which has some talcum powder mixed with perfumed oil. This represents myrrh that is a fragrance mixed with oil and used for embalming purposes.

Mr. King: Hello, boys and girls. Welcome to our special investigative report where we look for real life stories of God sightings. We are trying to discover the truth about who God is. When we find him, we will point him out. Let me point out my assistant, Gordy.

Gordy appears with a bag taped to his hand or set to the side. The bag reads, "Put money here."

Mr. King: This is my assistant, Gordy. Hey! Wait a minute... what gives?

Gordy: I need money! Are you going to give me any?

Mr. King: No. Remember, Gordy, that we are looking for real life stories of God sightings. We are not looking for money.

Gordy: Well, I understand that today we will find some kings. I wanted to be prepared.

Mr. King: You wanted to be prepared for a king... how are you doing that?

Gordy: Well... I have this bag and this sign, "Put money here." We all know kings are rich! They have lots of money.

Mr. King: So?

Gordy: So when I meet the kings, I'll have this bag and they'll put lots of money in here.

Mr. King: Oh, Gordy. I think you have it backwards.

Gordy: Backwards? What do you mean?

Mr. King: Usually when people meet kings, it is the people that give money or presents to the king.

Gordy: WHAT?! I thought today's story was about kings who gave presents.

Mr. King: Well, it is about kings who gave presents to someone who was a bigger king.

Gordy: You mean the kings gave presents to a king?

Mr. King: That's right. He was the King of kings.

Gordy: What did they give him?

Mr. King: That is for our special investigative reporters to find. Do I have some kids that would volunteer to help me make a discovery here?

Chose three volunteers to come forward.

Mr. King: Kids, there are three hidden boxes in the room that have clues to the three kinds of gifts that the kings gave to the King of kings. See if you can find them.

After the three volunteers return to the front with the boxes, continue:

Mr. King: It looks to me like we have three boxes or gifts here with clues for today's God sighting.

Gordy: How are they clues?

Mr. King: These gifts were given by three wise men or kings to the King of kings.

Gordy: What's in the boxes?

Mr. King: Maybe some of the kids want to guess what is in them. Does anyone know what three gifts the wise men gave to the King? I will take them out of the boxes and let you see.

Let the kids guess gold, frankincense, and myrrh, showing them the representations of each.

Gordy: Wait a minute! I don't get it. How are these gifts fit for a king?

Mr. King: I think this is best explained by one of the people who gave these gifts. Can we have our special guest who had a genuine God sighting join us?

A wise man enters. (If the costuming for a wise man is too difficult to find, it might be appropriate to have a more modestly costumed person pretend to be a servant of one of the kings. He could tell the story from his perspective. Of course, this would require modifying the script slightly.)

Mr. King: Thank you for coming, O Wise One.

Melchior: *Indeed, it is my pleasure. I would like to tell you my story. I am called a Magi. Most of you know me as a wise man. My name is not recorded in the Bible, but you may call me Melchior.*

Gordy: What kind of name is that?

Melchior: *It is a name that comes from my homeland. You see, I come from the East near the place once known as Babylon. In fact, I come from a place hundreds of miles away from Bethlehem.*

Gordy: Well, how did you get to Bethlehem?

Melchior: *I, and other Magi, studied the stars.*

Mr. King: So you are a stargazer?

Melchior: *Well, I not only gaze at the stars. I search for the truth and I have studied the Hebrew Scriptures – the words of the prophets written hundreds of years before.*

Mr. King: What did they tell you?

Melchior: *The scriptures predicted that the Messiah, a promised one, would come. He would be born King of the Jews. He would bring with him a kingdom that would last forever.*

Gordy: Wow! That's big news!

Melchior: *I thought so, too. The other Magi and I knew it must have been true when we saw God write it in the heavens.*

Gordy: What?

Melchior: *God wrote it in the heavens.*

Gordy: Like he took a big chalkboard and a lightning bolt and just wrote "Messiah has come?"

Melchior: *Not quite. He sent a star that signaled the birth of someone very important. The star seemed to move.*

Gordy: Where was it going?

Melchior: *That is what we wanted to find out. I joined with my Magi friends and we set out for a journey. God, himself, was directing us to the Messiah.*

Gordy: Where did he take you?

Melchior: *To the land of Judea. It was there that we went to King Herod and asked him where was the one who was born King of the Jews. We said, "We have seen his star in the East and we have come to worship him."*

Gordy: Did King Herod know where he was?

Melchior: *No, he did not. But he did ask those who knew the Hebrew scripture well. He asked them where the Messiah, the Promised One, was to be born. They told the king that he would be born in Bethlehem. The prophets had written long ago that Bethlehem would be the birthplace.*

Gordy: Wow! Bethlehem was where Jesus was born. Is that where you went?

Melchior: *Exactly. We went to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph already living in a house with this young baby.*

Gordy: You mean you didn't go on the same night he was born?

Melchior: *No, it was long after that. Jesus was about two years old.*

Gordy: What did you do when you found him?

Melchior: *We gave him these gifts.*

Mr. King: Gordy, it was like I said. They gave Jesus the gifts because he was the King. When you meet a King, you give him gifts.

Gordy: Why did you give him such weird gifts?

Melchior: *We gave him the gift of gold because that is the king of all metals. The gold shows that Jesus is a King. Gold is a gift fit for kings.*

Gordy: Well, what about that smelly stuff?

Melchior: *The frankincense was a gift for priests. You see, priests would take the sweet smelling frankincense and mix it with their oil to anoint sacrifices. It was pleasing to God when they did this.*

Gordy: Oh. Did you give that gift because Jesus was like a priest?

Melchior: *Yes. A priest helps people get connected with God. Jesus was that kind of person. His sacrifice was not an animal, though. His sacrifice was his own life when he died on the cross.*

Gordy: Wow!

Mr. King: What was your third gift?

Melchior: *That was myrrh.*

Gordy: That stuff also smells. What is it used for?

Melchior: *Myrrh is used as a fragrance that anoints a dead body when it is buried. Myrrh is wrapped inside the cloths that wrap up the body and help it to smell pleasant.*

Gordy: That's a strange gift for a king!

Melchior: *Perhaps so, but this was not an ordinary king. This was a king who would someday give his life so that all of his subjects could live forever.*

Gordy: Oh, that's right! Jesus would grow up to die on the cross for our sins. Then he would rise again and live forever.

Melchior: *That is the King of kings whom we serve.*

Mr. King: Did Jesus like the gifts?

Melchior: *The gifts were received by Mary and Joseph. The gifts came in very handy because they used these gifts to get enough money to travel all the way to Egypt. They had to leave Bethlehem because it was no longer safe for them there.*

Gordy: Why was that?

Melchior: *It seems that wicked old King Herod found out that Jesus was born as King of the Jews. He came after Jesus to kill him. King Herod even killed all of the babies in the town that were two years old and younger.*

Gordy: Were you still there?

Melchior: *No, we had already left Bethlehem and gone back to our country. We took a different route back because God had warned us in a dream not to go back to Herod.*

Mr. King: What did you finally learn when you gave your gifts to the King?

Melchior: *He is the King of kings! He came as Savior to the world. Even we who are wise men or kings bow before him and offer our very best. He is our King of kings and Lord of lords.*

Mr. King: Thank you, Melchior.

Gordy: Yeah. Thanks, Melchior. Here. You can have my bag. You'll need it. After all, people give gifts to you.

Melchior exits with Gordy's bag.

Gordy: Mr. King, what did he mean by Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords?

Mr. King: Gordy, when we say that Jesus is Lord, we mean that he not only came into the world to be our Savior and to give his life for us, but also, when we trust in him, we also honor him as the King over our lives and over everything we have. That means that he is our Lord. "Lord" means master or leader. The Lord is the one whom we want to obey.

Gordy: Wow! That means that we should give him everything.

Mr. King: It sure does. When we do, we are blessed. He gives back to us blessings for everything that we give to him. That is what the kids will discover today in Kingdom Quest.

Would you say a closing prayer, Gordy?

Gordy: Sure!

Dear God, thank you that you sent Jesus to be our King of kings and Lord of lords. Help us all to serve you and trust you with all that we have, even all our money. In Jesus' name, Amen.

“Wise Man’s Star”

Plan A – The Advanced Folding Pattern

STEP 1

1. Fold Jesus dollar in half horizontally with the crease at the top.



2. Fold down the upper right-hand corner to make triangle.



3. Fold top crease down so that the crease meets the first triangle and the long piece is now vertical.



4. Flip paper over and position horizontally.



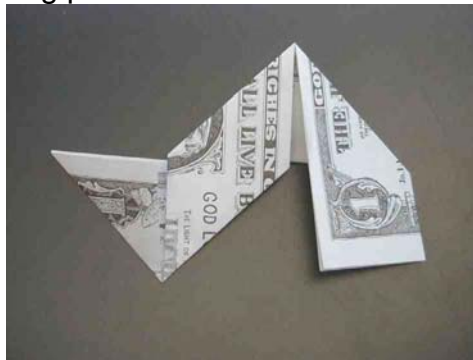
5. Fold the top crease down so that the crease meets the edge of the large triangle. The long piece is now in a vertical position.



6. Flip paper over so the triangle points down.



7. Fold open edges of long piece down to meet the other open edge.



8. Flip it and fold the square into a triangle. Tuck the end in.

9. The finished product should look like two triangles connected at their bases, which, when turned, looks like the letter "Z."



STEP 2

1. Take a new dollar bill and fold it horizontally with the crease at the top.
2. Fold up the lower right-hand corner to make a triangle.
3. Fold bottom open edge up so that the open edges meet the first triangle and the long piece is vertical.
4. Flip paper over and position arrow horizontally.
5. Fold the top open edges down so that they meet the edges of the large triangle. The long piece is now in a vertical position.
6. Flip paper over so triangle points down.
7. Fold top crease of long piece down to meet the other creased edge.
8. Flip the bottom square, fold the square into a triangle, and tuck in.
9. The finished product should look like two triangles connected at their bases which, when turned, looks like a backwards letter "Z."



STEP 3

1. Place both dollars in a "Z" position side by side with the first folded dollar on the left. (The first folded dollar has two large triangles facing on the top surface.)



2. Place the left "Z" on top of the right one, turning it to be horizontal and across the center of the bottom "Z."



3. Fold the top edge to the center and tuck it in.



4. Fold the bottom edge to the center and tuck it in.



5. Flip the work of art over.

6. Fold the left side down and tuck it in.

7. Fold the right side down and tuck it in.

8. Voila! A Wise Man's Star!



“Wise Man’s Star”

Simple Folding Instructions

Plan B

1. Crease a dollar down the middle horizontally.
2. Make two triangles at each end by folding corners to the center crease line.
3. Fold each triangle again to line up with center crease.
4. Duplicate with another dollar. You might want to use a different side facing you on this one.
5. Place the two dollars together with one vertical and the other horizontal. Tape the dollars together at the two center points on each side.