



Date: _____
Series: Jesus Comes
Winter Year 1, Lesson 31

Wise Men Find Jesus

Take Home Point: *Worship Jesus.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Matthew 2:1-11

We will help children know:

- God sent Jesus, his Son, born as a baby.
- Wise men followed the star to find Jesus.
- The wise men worshiped Jesus.

We will help children feel:

- Eager to find Jesus in the middle of the Christmas season.
- Thankful God gave us Jesus.

We will help children do:

- Eat a star snack.
- Make a glittery star picture.
- Play a game called *Follow the Star*.
- Learn the Take Home Point: ***Worship Jesus.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> your choice of toys
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy puppet
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6 8 9 9	Activity 1: Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Game	<p><i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big Book <i>Follow that Star</i> by Mary Mantz Simon (www.cph.org) or a children's picture Bible flashlight scented cotton ball (perfume or extract) <p><i>Activity 2: Snack</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> white bread soft butter two or three star cookie cutters napkins, cups and water cinnamon-sugar <p><i>Activity 3: Craft</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> copy Appendix A on card stock, one per child containers, white glue and water for glue wash cotton swabs or paintbrushes glitter—any color(s) trays or newspaper <p><i>Activity 4: Game</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> copies of stars from craft tape picture of Baby Jesus (can be children's picture Bible)
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	11	Review the Take Home Point Pray Sing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> your choice of music craft example from Activity 3

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys, such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: The opening puppet presentation will be an attention grabber that helps gather the children. This is not an extensive presentation but a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and the Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the “joke” but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Puppet Presentation:

Judy Looks for the Most Important Thing

Supplies: Judy puppet

Presenter: Hi, boys and girls. Let’s call for Judy.

Kids call Judy. **Judy...Judy...Judy**. Judy comes out, looking from the left to the right of the puppet stage.

Presenter: Hi, Judy. What are you looking for?

Judy: I’m looking for something very important!

Presenter: What could that be?

Judy: It’s the most important thing in the whole world.

Presenter: What is it?

Judy: It’s my pink pony. It’s lost.

Presenter: That’s too bad. I’ll help you find it after I first tell you about some people who were looking for the most important thing in the world.

Judy: Did they lose their pink ponies, too?

Presenter: No. They were looking for Jesus, God’s own Son.

Judy: Did they find him?

Presenter: They did.

Judy: How?

Presenter: They were kings and lived far away from where Jesus was born. They were wise men.

Judy: How did they know where to find Jesus?

Presenter: God sent them a special star to follow. They got on their camels and rode across the desert following that star. Guess what they found?

Judy: They found Jesus?

Presenter: They sure did. He was a small child.

Judy: What did they do?

Presenter: They worshiped him and gave him expensive gifts. They knew he was very important. They knew he was God's Son. He was as important as a king!

Judy: Can I find Jesus too?

Presenter: Judy, we can find him today, too. Even when we can't see him, Jesus is here. We can believe he loves us. Today we will even play a game where we will look around and find a pretend Jesus.

Judy: Can we play a game where we find my pink pony?

Presenter: I'll help you look right after this. Thank you, Judy.

Boys and girls, let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you and the children repeat after me. *Worship Jesus. Worship Jesus.

Song: to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**WOR-SHIP JE-e-SUS,
HE'S the SON of GOD.
PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him.
HE'S the SON of GOD.**

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

We love you. We love you.

We can find Jesus We can find Jesus

And worship him. And worship him.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for two-year-olds should be one to five or fewer. Divide into groups of five with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds.

Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of ten. The ratio will be maintained at one to five.

Activity 1: Bible Event

Supplies: Big Book Follow that Star by Mary Mantz Simon (order from www.cph.org), flashlight, cotton ball with extract or perfume

Part One: Read the Bible Event

Read *Follow that Star* Big Book by Mary Mantz Simon. If not available, use children's picture Bible and read about Jesus' birth

Part Two: Act Out the Bible Event

A special star leads to Jesus.

- After Jesus was born, wise men from countries far away wanted to see Jesus. They brought three gifts. Let's count to three. **One, two, three.**
- God put a special star in the sky that showed everyone where Jesus was. Let's make our fingers twinkle like a star.

Three wise men follow the star to Jesus.

- The wise men lived so far away that it took them almost two years to find Jesus. They were following the special star that showed everyone where Jesus was staying. Turn on the flashlight.
- Let's pretend this flashlight is the special star and follow it around the room. Walk around the room with the flashlight leading the way.
- The wise men stopped on the way to talk to King Herod. King Herod did not believe in God. He was afraid of Jesus. Show me how you look when you are afraid.

- **Bad King Herod thought that Jesus would take over his country. He wanted to hurt Jesus. King Herod told the wise men to come back after they found Jesus and tell him where Jesus was.**

Wise men worshiped Jesus.

- **The wise men saw the star stop and shine over the place where Jesus was. They were very happy. They bowed down and worshiped Jesus. Let's bow down like the wise men did.**
- **The wise men loved Jesus. They knew he was a very special gift from God. They brought him some very nice gifts. They brought him gold and special spices. The spices might have smelled like this.**

Pass around cotton ball with extract or perfume and let all children smell it.

- **After the wise men visited Jesus and gave him their gifts, they were warned in a dream not to go back to King Herod. They went a different way so they would not see King Herod. Let's quietly tiptoe around the room.**

Part Three: Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

**Dear God, Dear God,
 We love you. We love you.
 We can find Jesus We can find Jesus
 And worship him. And worship him.
 Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
 In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
 Amen. Amen.**

Song: to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**WOR-SHIP JE-e-SUS,
 HE'S the SON of GOD.
 PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him.
 HE'S the SON of GOD.**

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: Worship Jesus. Worship Jesus.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies: two or three star cookie cutters; plain white bread; soft butter; cinnamon-sugar mixture (1/4 cup sugar and one teaspoon cinnamon); napkins, cups and water. Put a thin layer of butter on the bread before class begins.

Boys and girls, today we are going to eat a sparkly star that looks like the one that led the wise men to Jesus. Before we eat, let's fold our hands and pray.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
We can find Jesus We can find Jesus
And worship him. And worship him.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES BEFORE YOU GIVE THE CHILDREN ANY FOOD TO EAT.

Pass out a napkin and cup of water to each child.

Now I am going to give you a piece of bread but don't eat it yet. We are going to cut out a star for you to eat.

Cut a star with the cookie cutter. Child can eat the scraps also. If you prefer, all stars may be cut out before class begins.

Now I am going to sprinkle a little sparkly cinnamon sugar on your star to make it sparkle and taste good. Go ahead and eat your snack now. Remember when you see the stars in the sky that a special star led the wise men to Jesus.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: Worship Jesus. Worship Jesus.

Song: to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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HE'S the SON of GOD.

Activity 3: Craft

Supplies:

- Appendix A copied on cardstock, one per child
- glue wash (white glue watered down)
- containers for glue wash
- cotton swabs or paintbrushes
- glitter, any color
- trays or newspaper

Boys and girls, today we are going to decorate a star to remind you that a special star led the wise men to Jesus. First I want you to paint your star with this glue. Then you are going to sprinkle the glitter on it.

Place the picture in a tray or on newspaper while the children shake the glitter on their picture. Pour the excess back in glitter jar. If glue dries before you can get the glitter on, reapply it.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: Worship Jesus. Worship Jesus.

Song: to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*

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**WOR-SHIP JE-e-SUS,
HE'S the SON of GOD.
PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him.
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Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

**Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
We can find Jesus We can find Jesus
And worship him. And worship him.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.**

Activity 4: Learning Game

Supplies: stars cut out from craft (don't have to cut right on lines); tape; picture of the Baby Jesus

Option: use a children's picture Bible open to a "Baby Jesus" picture. Rubber band on pages will hold the book open. Or... take a Baby Jesus from a manger set and hide it.

Before class, tape the stars in a meandering path around room. If possible, have the end of path out of sight so it is a surprise. Have a picture of Baby Jesus at end. If children want to go again and time permits, move the ending of the path.

Boys and girls, today we are going to play a game called *Follow the Star*, just like the three wise men that followed the special star to find Jesus. See if you can look around and find the Baby Jesus. Let's see where the stars lead us.

The leader leads the group onto the stars and moves around room. If your path is short, go back and forth over the same path. When you get close to where the "Baby Jesus" is, say:

Let's pretend we are like the wise men. We are hoping to find the Baby Jesus. We have been following the star. Now it is time to look for him. Can you find a picture of the Baby Jesus nearby? Let's look around and see if we can find it.

Have the children cover their eyes while you hide the picture of Jesus in a new location and follow the star again.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Worship Jesus. Worship Jesus.*

Song: to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**WOR-SHIP JE-e-SUS,
HE'S the SON of GOD.
PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him.
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Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

**Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
We can find Jesus We can find Jesus
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Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.**

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter shows the craft and compliments the children for doing a wonderful job. He/she reviews the Take Home Point: * **Worship Jesus.**

Lesson Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

We love you. We love you.

We can find Jesus We can find Jesus

And worship him. And worship him.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Lesson Song:

Song: to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

WOR-SHIP JE-e-SUS,

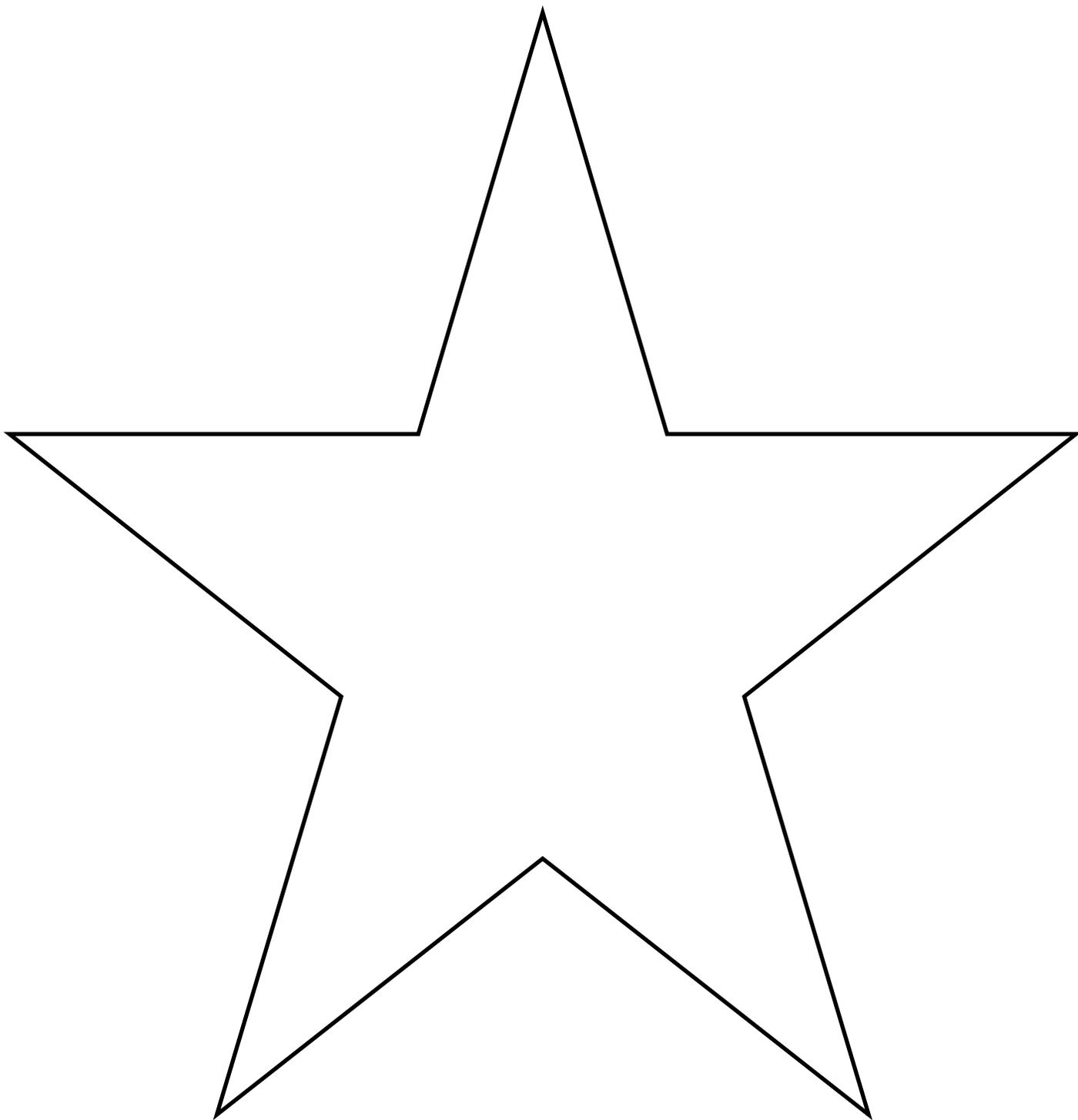
HE'S the SON of GOD.

PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him, PRAISE him.

HE'S the SON of GOD.

Lead them in three songs on a tape or CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out the God Talk at Home.

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