



Date: _____
Series: Jesus, Our Savior, Came to Earth
Winter Year 1, Lesson 32

The Wise Men Share Their Gifts with Jesus

Bible Event: Matthew 2:1-11

Take Home Point: *JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – *Give Jesus your best!*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (*CAPS*). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus gave his best, his life, for us.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God gave Jesus as a wonderful gift to the world. Jesus is our Savior. The wise men followed a star until they ended up finding the toddler king and giving him their best. Children will learn that they too can give him their best because ***JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – *Give Jesus your best!***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs, their offerings, and their actions of love in their worship experience.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: *The King Is Born*, The Animated Stories Inc. 1987

Activity Suggestion: Nativity scenes to arrange characters.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Mystery Box

The Mystery Box contains objects will help the presenter tell the Bible even in creative fashion. They can be lifted out and shown as the story is told. Another option is to have a hole cut in the top of the box so that a child could put a hand in and guess what the object is before it is shown.

The Wise Men Share Their Gifts

Before the presentation, attach a star to the ceiling in a part of the room (or in another room) that you will travel to as you follow the star. Pretend that it rests over Bethlehem. You will arrive there to tell the story as you bring your Mystery Box along.

Open Mystery Box. **Let me see what I have inside our Mystery Box today. Here is God's Word. It tells us the truth about who God is and he loves us. I turn to Matthew 2 and read about wise men that gave their best to Jesus.**

About the time Jesus was born, there lived certain wise men that studied the stars. They lived in a far away land from where Jesus lived. They had heard nothing about his birth.

When they studied the stars in the sky, they noticed there was a new star. It shined brighter than any of the others. By this, they knew God had done something special. For these wise men knew God. They knew he had promised to send a Savior into the world. Could this be a sign that the Savior was born?

At once, they planned to take their very best gifts and travel to see if they could find the newborn King, God's Son. They would give him their best as gifts. Off they went, following the stars.

Should we take our journey too? Let's pack up our very best gifts to bring to the King.

Load gifts in an imaginary box and place it on your "camel."

Now let's put our gifts on our camels and start walking. We're looking for a star. Does anyone see the bright star? Ah, there it is!

Gather beneath the star. Have the Mystery Box handy.

I can see that we are now in Bethlehem, and we are at the house where Mary and Joseph are staying. There is the baby Jesus. He's not a small baby anymore. He is already old enough to barely walk. Let's imagine him to be right here and we are the wise. Let's give him our gifts. Let's give him our very best.

First, (take gold from box) let's give him gold. This is a gift fit for a king and that's what Jesus is. Since he's God's Son, he is King of the whole world.

Next, (take out incense) let's give him this frankincense. Smell how pretty it smells? Many years ago, people would give this gift to those who helped serve in God's church. When they burned the incense, it reminded them of prayers going to heaven. It reminded them of someone who would pray for all the people. That's what Jesus would do.

Now let's give him this gift (take out cinnamon) of myrrh. This smells very good. It was a special perfume put on the body of someone when they wrapped them up after they had died. It was very expensive. I wonder if they knew there was something special about Jesus that when he grew up he would do something very special to take away the sin of the world. Does anyone know what it was? Take answers from the children. Yes! Jesus was to die on the cross and give his life for our sin.

**Did Jesus stay dead? No. He rose again and is alive right now.
*JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – Give Jesus your best.**

How can we give Jesus our best today? The Bible says that when we worship him and sing songs to him, we are giving him our best. When we tell him that we love him, it is very important. What are some of the things we do in Kids Church that help us show Jesus that we love and want to give him our best? (*Sing songs, pray, pay attention to God's Word, make our crafts, cooperate, give our offering, etc.*)

Is there anything we can do at home that helps us show we can give Jesus our best? (*Cooperate with our parents, obey, show love to others, pray, etc.*)

Do we have to get on camels and travel all across the land to be able to give Jesus our best? No. Can we give him our best right here at church? Yes. Right at home? Yes.

Let's remember: *JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – *Give Jesus your best.*

Let's pray. Repeat after me.

**Dear God, (repeat)
Thank you for being here. (repeat)
Thank you for sending Jesus. (repeat)
He is our Savior. (repeat)
Help us give him our best. (repeat)
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! (repeat)
Amen. (repeat)**



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Arrange Hershey Kisses with Almonds (or Hershey Hugs) in a circle. (Be aware that some children may have allergies. If that is the case, use Hershey Kisses without almonds.) Ask if the kids can see how that looks like a crown. That reminds them of the wise men coming to give their best to Jesus. They knew that Jesus was a newborn king and he would be Savior. Have a treat fit for a king. When the kids eat their candy, they will find a surprise inside just like the wise men found the surprise of the Savior King.

Craft Zone: Cut an 8 x 8-inch square of mesh netting for each child. Have bins of potpourri from where children can take a handful and place it in the middle of the mesh. Copy on cardstock the Take Home Point. Cut apart and single punch one hole in upper left corner. Take ribbon and thread it through the hole, and around the gathered up mesh to make a sachet bag to take home. Remind the kids about the wise men's gifts.

Drama Zone: Have some royal wise men clothes for children to play dress-up.

Coloring Zone: Color pages with markers and crayons.

Puppet Zone: Use a variety of puppets. Ask the puppets what they would bring to give baby Jesus.

Play Zone: Cut out stars from one side of a refrigerator box. Glue thin yellow tissue paper over the holes. Turn the box on its side. Children can climb in the box and look up to see the stars shining through the top of the box. To make it so more children are able to see the stars, cut holes in the side of the box so the children can just poke their heads in to see the stars.

Quiet Reading Zone: Place a string of Christmas lights over this area to remind them of the stars shining above.

Music Zone: *Star of Wonder*



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

***Purpose:** As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.*

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

***Purpose:** The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.*

The presenter invites Bubba out. Instead, all kinds of toys come flying over the stage. When Bubba appears, the presenter asks him about the toys being tossed about. Bubba explains that he is looking for a very special gift to give Jesus, but he doesn't know what Jesus can use and he doesn't have those gifts like the wise men gave him. He tries to remember the words of those gifts. The presenter with the help of the kids help Bubba remember.

Still, Bubba is stumped. What can he give Jesus as his best? The presenter asks the children if they can help with suggestions. Let the children add their suggestions, but finally point out that the best gifts are to show Jesus your love when you worship him and pray to him and in ways you help others. The presenter might suggest that Bubba share these toys with others. That's one way to show his love for Jesus.

Close with a prayer thanking God for giving us is very best—Jesus to be our Savior, who died for us so we could be forgiven. Then ask God to help us to give our best to him, just like the wise men. ***JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – Give Jesus your best.**

Prayer Time:

***Purpose:** Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.*

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- video: video: *Animated Stories: The King is Born*—order from: www.nestfamily.com. Link to Children's Bible Stories in the left margin. Type in "king" in the search box and enter. Order as indicated.
- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- star that is large and heavy enough to hang from the ceiling.
- pretend camel
- mystery box
 - Bible
 - small treasure chest of "gold" coins
 - small pan of burning incense
 - fancy serving dish of several teaspoons of ground cinnamon

Action Zones:

Snack:

- Hershey's Kisses w/Almonds. Or if there are allergies, Hershey's Hugs

Craft:

- 8 x 8-inch square of mesh netting per child
- potpourri collected in bins or tubs
- Take Home Point printed on cardstock, cut apart and hole punched
- ribbon to cut and tie each sachet bag

Drama:

- wise men's costumes

Play:

- refrigerator box
- yellow tissue

Coloring:

- coloring page
- markers and crayons

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books
- Christmas lights

Music:

- *Star of Wonder*—order from:
http://www.sheetmusicplus.com/pages.html?cart=333734170710321139&target=smp_detail.html%26sku%3DWB.SV9882&s=pages-www.mywebsearch.com/jsp/GGmain.jsp&e=/sheetmusic/detail/WB.SV9882.html&t=&k=&r=wwws-err5

Puppet:

- various puppets

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- various toys

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

Appendix

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