



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: God Gives the Best Gifts  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 32

# The Wise Men Share Their Gifts

**Bible Event:** Matthew 2:1-11

**Take Home Point:** \*GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS – *I give God my 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:** God offers us his best in Jesus; so in thankful return, I want to give God my best.

**What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:**

- Children will learn that our God is a giving God. The season of Christmas is about the best gift God has ever given us – his Son Jesus. He sent Jesus to be our Savior and friend. Every year at this time, we get to remember what it was like when Jesus was born and how the wise men came to give him gifts. Kids will learn how we can worship Jesus, too. Kids will take home the point: **GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS – *I give God my 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 of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



## 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:** Choose a video and list it here.

**Activity Suggestion:** Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



## 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: Video

**Test your sound and video system beforehand. Cue the video to its precise beginning. For larger groups of children (15 or more), use a large screen TV or imager. Dim the lights before starting the video. To introduce a video, you might read from a Bible storybook and leave off the ending, inviting children to see what happens by watching the video. You could also introduce the video by inviting children to keep an eye out for special actions or words they will see during it.**

Introduce the video by reading the Bible account to the children first.

Show the video clip from *The Animated Stories from the New Testament: The King is Born*, produced by Animated Stories, Inc., 1987. The clip starts at 15 minutes, 10 seconds after the opening title. Begin just at the twinkling North star, when a wise man says, "Could it be?" and go to the end of the video. The length of the clip is 9 minutes, 58 seconds.

Recap the video by asking the children a couple of fill-in-the-blank questions and explaining as necessary:

1. What did the wise men see in the sky that led them to Jesus? (A star.)
2. What three things did they bring as gifts for Jesus? (Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.) Explain that these were very valuable, expensive gifts. The wise men wanted to give Jesus the very best gifts they had to show Jesus how much they loved him.

**3. Did the wise men go back to the wicked king Herod and tell him where Jesus was? (No.)**

Explain that the wise men knew that king Herod wanted to kill Jesus, so they took a different route home and never told Herod where Jesus was.

Close with the take-home point: **GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS – *I give God my best.***

**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.



## 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:** Give each child a graham cracker stick (or two) to frost with any color frosting. Provide a variety of 'toppings' including Skittles, gumdrops or Froot Loops cereal to place on the graham crackers to create jeweled bands resembling the wise men's head pieces.

**Drama Zone:** Provide robes, headpieces, fake gifts, etc. for kids to reenact the scene. Provide a flashlight for the star in the sky.

**Puppet Zone:** Let the children use puppets to share what gifts they received for Christmas and to talk about what kinds of gifts they can give to Jesus.

**Felt Zone:** Use felt board materials to show the story of the wise men from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #99 "A Star Leads the Wise Men to Jesus" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

**Craft Zone:** Create wise men headpieces. Pre-cut strips of various colors of construction paper approximately two inches wide. Staple and adjust strips as necessary to fit the children's heads as they start work on the craft. Also pre-cut a variety of shapes (*circle, diamond, triangle, etc.*) and colors of construction paper for the children to glue onto the headbands as 'jewels.' Provide a variety of large, colored paper napkins, unfolded, to staple to the back of the headband to act as the drape of the headpiece. Have children attach a pre-made label to the craft: "Wise men still seek him."

**Play Zone:** Create a sensory station. Provide small containers, such as yogurt containers with holes punched through the lids filled with items the children can smell and guess the scent. Examples: peppermint extract, cinnamon, orange or lemon peels, perfume, coffee beans, etc.

**Quiet Reading Zone:** Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Christmas.

**Music Zone:** Seasonal music

**Coloring Zone:** "The Wise Men Share their Gifts with Jesus" coloring page.



## 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.*

Judy comes on stage, sad because Christmas is over and there are no more presents! No more presents to wrap and get ready to give to someone and definitely no more presents to open! The presenter assures Judy that giving and getting presents for Christmas is fun... but it doesn't have to be over quite yet. Judy doesn't understand. Is it still Christmas? No, the presenter explains that Christmas day is over, but the giving and getting presents can happen all year in a different way. Today's Bible event will help explain what he means.

The presenter goes on to tell Judy that today's Bible event was about some people called wise men bringing presents to Jesus. Judy knows that, but the presents all sounded yucky....who wants mold and Frankenstein and fur? The presenter corrects her with the children's help and explains that gold, frankincense and myrrh were the best gifts around back then. Gold was valuable for jewelry, frankincense was something pastors burned in church and it smelled good and myrrh was a very sweet smelling spice like cinnamon. They were gifts fit for a king.

The wise men knew how special Jesus was and they wanted to give him the very best they had. You and I can worship Jesus and give him our very best gifts, too. Judy thinks that she needs to save her money and go buy Jesus an expensive Christmas present. The presenter explains that she doesn't have to do that. Instead, we can all give our best to God by doing other things to show him our love. The presenter invites the children to think of ways they can give Jesus their best including singing loud at Kids' Church, giving offerings, helping friends, listening to Mom and Dad, telling others about Jesus, believing that Jesus died for our sins and forgives us. Always remember: **\*GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS – I give God my 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 a 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.*

# Supplies:

## *Welcome Zone:*

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

## *Opening Worship:*

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box—the treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event
- *The King is Born: Animated Stories from the New Testament*; Animated Stories Inc., 1987—order from [http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product\\_detail.asp?productID=KBD](http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=KBD)

## *Action Zones:*

### *Snack:*

- graham cracker sticks
- frosting, any flavor
- Skittles, gum drops, Froot Loops, etc.

### *Drama:*

- wise men robes and headpieces
- fake gifts
- a flashlight

### *Craft:*

- variety of colored construction paper, pre-cut into strips and shapes
- scissors
- large, colored, paper napkins
- glue sticks
- stapler
- pre-made label: "Wise men still seek him"

### *Play:*

- small containers like yogurt cups with lids
- things to smell like peppermint extract, orange peels, etc.

### *Quiet Reading:*

- basket of books including seasonal books
- *Santa's Favorite Story*

### *Music:*

- your choice of music

### *Puppet:*

- various puppets

### *Felt:*

- materials to reenact story (example, use Lesson #99 "A Star Leads the Wise Men to Jesus" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

### *Coloring page:*

- "The Wise Men Share their Gifts with Jesus"

## *Closing Worship:*

- Judy, the puppet

## *Closing Zones:*

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books