

Week 5



December 28th / 29th

OVERVIEW CARD

The Wise Men

Key Question:

How do we know God loves us?

Bottom Line:

God gave us Jesus.

Memory Verse:

“God has given a son to us.”

Isaiah 9:6, NCV

Bible Story:

The wise men come to see God’s Son.

The Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

Coloring Page:

Wise men travel to find Jesus.

Music:

Life with Jesus

Great Big God

All My Heart

Bible Lesson:

Visitors from the East

Pages 288 to 293

Story:

A Star for Jesus

by Crystal Bowman

Service Time:

63 minutes



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ACTIVITY

The Wise Men

Follow the Star

What You Need: Cardstock star, a yardstick and tape

What You Do:

Play a version of “Follow the Leader,” only the children have to follow the star. Once you have led the children around the room a few times, doing silly movements all along the way, allow the children to begin taking turns holding the star for everyone to follow.

What You Say:

During the activity: “Today we are going to play ‘Follow the Star.’ All you have to do is make sure you follow this special star. Ready? Here we go! We are following the star!” *(Make sure to do some silly movements for the children to copy as they follow you. Allow the children to take turns being the leader and holding the star.)*

At the end of the activity: “Our Bible lesson today has a very special star in it. It is so special that it leads some wise men all the way to Jesus’ house. That is one special star!”



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ACTIVITY

The Wise Men

Look for It

What You Need: “Story Pictures” from the Activity Pages on the Website, red, green, blue and yellow cardstock, scissors, and tape.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Make a copy of “Story Pictures” from the Activity Pages on red, blue, green, and yellow cardstock and then cut the pictures apart. This will give you one copy of each picture in each of the four colors for a total of 16 pictures. Then tape the pictures to the walls around the room.

During the activity: Play a game of “I Spy” with the children. Ask them if they can find each of the pictures one at a time. (Example: *Can you find a red crown?*)

What You Say:

Before the activity: “Come sit with me. We’re going to play a game. I’ll ask you to find something and then I want you to look around the room and see if you can find a picture of it. Ready? Here we go!”

During the activity: “Can you find (name a picture on one of the cards)? WOW! You’re really good at this game! Let’s see if you can find another one.” (Continue in this manner until all of the pictures are found.)

At the end of the activity: “Our Bible lesson today is about a king who doesn’t wear a crown. It also has some presents and camels and even a special star! It’s one of my favorite lessons. Do you remember?”



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ACTIVITY

The Wise Men

Star Play-Doh®

What You Need: Yellow Play-Doh® and star-shaped cookie cutters

What You Do: Place the Play-Doh® and the cookie cutters on the tables in the play area. Guide the children to make star shapes with the dough, using either the cookie cutters or their hands.

What You Say: “Mushy, squishy Play-Doh®! I love to play with Play-Doh®! Can you flatten it out and make a star with this cookie cutter like this? (*Demonstrate.*) That’s a fantastic star! Let’s make some more stars. (*Pause.*) Wow! All these stars look like the sky at night. We heard about some guys who traveled to see Jesus by following a star up in the sky. Do you remember who they were?”



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ACTIVITY

The Wise Men

Stepping Stars

What You Need: “Stepping Star” from the Activity Pages on the Website, scissors, and yellow cardstock. *(Option: Laminate)*

What You Do:

Before the activity: Make eight copies of “Stepping Star” from the Activity Pages on yellow cardstock, cut them out and, tape them securely to the floor in a line.

(Option: Laminate the stars before cutting them out for increased durability.)

During the activity: Show the children how to say one word of the Memory Verse each time they step on a star. Once you and the children have done this a few times, make it more of a challenge by putting more space between each star. You can go from a step to a hop to a jump as you say each word of the verse!

What You Say:

Before the activity: “What did the wise men follow all the way to Jesus in our lesson? *(Pause.)* Yes! They followed a special star. I have some stars today that are going to help us remember our Memory Verse. We’re going to step from star to star as we say the verse together. Do you think you can do that with me? *(Pause.)* Here we go!”

During the activity: “‘God *(step)* has *(step)* given *(step)* a *(step)* son *(step)* to *(step)* us,’ *(step)* Isaiah 9:6 *(step)*.” *(Repeat as many times as desired.)*

At the end of the activity: “That was fun! And you did a great job saying our verse. Now tell me one more time: **How do we know God loves us?** *(Pause.)* **God gave us Jesus!** You got it!”



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ACTIVITY

The Wise Men

Star Bowling

What You Need: Stars, tape, six bowling pins and bowling ball.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Attach the stars to the six bowling pins.

During the activity: Set up the bowling pins and instruct the children to take turns knocking down the pins. Each time a child knocks down a pin make sure to talk about the very special star during Jesus' birth.

What You Say:

"Our Bible lesson today has a very special star in it. It is so special that it leads some wise men all the way to Jesus' house. That is one special star!"



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CRAFT

The Wise Men

Magic Scratch 3 Wise Men Ornaments



What You Need: Ornaments

What You Do:

Give each child an ornament and show them how to use the pencil to create their very own wise men ornament to take home.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “We heard an amazing lesson today about when Jesus was born! We are going to make an ornament that reminds us of God’s special gift to us!”

At the end of the activity: “Fantastic job! I love them! Now you can take your ornaments home and tell your families what a wonderful gift God has given to us! God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus! **How do we know God loves us?** (Pause.) Absolutely! **God gave us Jesus!**”



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SMALL GROUP

The Wise Men

Small Group Time

What you Need: Stickers, Bible Story, Wall Nativity Set and *A Star for Jesus* book by Crystal Bowman

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “Just when we thought the Christmas lesson was all over, the wise men showed up! They followed the star and God led them to Jesus. They even brought special gifts! Guess what! *(Pause.)* Every day can be like Christmas when we think about how **God gave us Jesus**. We can tell Jesus how special He is and that we love Him every day. We don’t have to wait until Christmas. We can tell Him any time we want!

“There are lots of different ways to tell Jesus we love Him. One of the best ways is by loving other people. We can also talk to Jesus, help others, share, be a good friend, tell the truth, and tell Him thank You for what we have. All of these are ways to tell Jesus we love Him.”

SGL: “We’ve been learning a Bible verse that tells us that God gave us Jesus! Would anyone like to try and say it all by yourself?”

CHILDREN: “‘God has given a son to us,’ Isaiah 9:6.”

Give each child the opportunity to say the verse. Reward them with a sticker.

SGL: “I am so proud of you for learning that verse!

SGL: “Today, and all month, we have been making our own manger scene, we have been using it to help us retell our Bible lesson! Our first week, we added Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and the angel! Our second week, we added the animals to the scene because Jesus was born in a manger with farm animals. Our third week, we added presents to our Manger Scene because birthday parties usually have presents and Jesus is the best present of all! Last week, we added the shepherds who were told by angels about the wonderful news of Jesus’ birth! The shepherds *(point to shepherds)* went to tell others about Jesus and to see the new king for themselves.

“Today we need to add the wise men. We learned that some very smart men went to see Jesus; we call them the wise men. The wise men *(hold up wise men)* made a very long journey to see the new baby and to bring Him presents. *(Add the wise men away from the stable to represent that it took them time to reach Jesus.)* It took the wise men a very long time to get to Jesus, so they didn’t get to see Him on His birthday. But that is okay because we are not thankful that God gave us Jesus only on his birthday but EVERY DAY! **God gave us Jesus** to be with us always! **How do we know God loves us?** *(Pause.)* Absolutely! **God gave us Jesus!**”

SGL: “Are you ready to read a book about Jesus, the star and wisemen? *(Pause.)* Great, I can’t wait to hear what happens!”



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