

7. The Wise Men

The Word of the Lord: The New Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

7. The Wise Men

- a) Children love stories with a “bad guy” in them. Start by telling them that so many people were thrilled that the Lord had been born, but one person wasn’t. He was the wicked King Herod.
- b) By the time the Lord was born, Herod was an old man, so he would not have been alive when the Lord was grown. (Even if the Lord had wanted to rule in Jerusalem as a king, which of course He didn’t, Herod would already have been dead.) But Herod was still upset and wanted to kill the Lord.
- c) Herod lied in order to find the Lord to kill Him. But of course, he couldn’t fool the whole of heaven, so the angels warned the wise men not to go back to Herod.
- d) The star didn’t appear in Jerusalem. Why? Perhaps it was because the leaders of the church there were not good? But, immediately, when the wise men left Jerusalem, the star was seen again. The wise men must have been so happy!
- e) Tell children that the presents the wise men gave to the Lord were very special with secret meanings, and only they and some of their friends, far away, knew what they meant. You might say that when they are older, they will learn why these were the only presents they gave to the Lord. (Gold means love to the Lord, frankincense means kindness to other people, and myrrh means good deeds. These are all we can give to the Lord).

- f) Joseph always obeyed the angel who appeared to him in dreams. Joseph left right away, that very night. Note how many times the angels protected the Lord, each time telling Joseph what to do.



Text simplified by Carol Bongers Buss
Pictures by Dianna Echols Synnestvedt
Notes by the Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss, Sr.

The Lord Sends the Wise Men to Bethlehem

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, when Herod was the king, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. They said, “Where is He who was born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard these things, he was worried, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests together, he asked them where the King should be born.

And they said to him, “In Bethlehem, as it is written in the Word.”

Then Herod called the wise men and asked them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and look carefully for the young Child; and when you have found Him come and tell me, that I may go and worship Him also.” When they heard the king, they left and the star which they saw in the east went before them till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, the wise men rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they came into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary, His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And then, being warned by God in a dream that they should not return to King Herod, they left for their own country another way.

Then the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream saying, “Get up! Take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod the king will search for the young Child to destroy Him.” So Joseph got up, and he took the young Child and His mother, Mary, at night and went into Egypt. And they stayed there until the death of Herod.

Matthew 2

