

CatholicMom.com Gospel Activity – Celebrating Our Catholic Faith

Religious Education Lesson Plan Helpers by Laura Grace

Please note: Some of our lesson plans contain links to Christian, non-Catholic resources. When preparing your lessons, we urge you to inform yourself on the teachings of the Catholic Church with respect to the Sunday gospel and readings. If you find links in any of the lesson plans which may be counter to the teachings of the Church, please notify lisa@catholicmom.com. These lesson plan helpers are designed to assist you in pulling together creative ideas and activities to supplement your lesson plan, but are not designed to be catechetical in nature. Thank you for your continued prayerful support.

Wise Men

Review:

Questions from last week's lesson.

Vocabulary: (Write the bold words on the board and discuss words with class.)

Wise Men- men from the East who studied the stars. The three Magi (priests from the ancient Persian religion) who came from the East to honor Jesus when he was born (known as Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar).

Ruler- a person who controls others

Presents- gifts

Jerusalem- the capital of Israel and holy city of the Jews (show students this on a map or have one of the students find it on a map).

Jews- a member of the Hebrew people

Priests- person who is ordained and does the church service

Worship- to honor

Frankincense- incense that makes a sweet smelling smoke when burned

Myrrh- a type of perfume that comes from trees and was used in burying people

Egypt- large country in Africa (show students this on a map or have one of the students find it on a map).

Nazareth- a town in Israel where Jesus spent most of his life (show students this on a map or have one of the students find it on a map).

Plan:

1. Read story "The Wise Men" from your own story book. While reading the story do cut outs (Snip-And-Tell Bible Stories by Karyn Henley, page 68 - 70) as the story unfolds. Then ask questions from below.

1. Who came and brought gifts for Jesus? The Three Wise Men
2. How did the Wise Men find Jesus? They followed a very bright star.
3. Why did Joseph take Mary and Jesus to Egypt? So King Herod could not kill Jesus.
4. When King Herod died where did Joseph take Mary and Jesus? To live in Nazareth.

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2. Introduce craft: How did the Wise Men find Jesus? They followed a very bright star.

Star of David Decorations- <http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/stardavidpops.html>

Or

Sparkling Stars- <http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/stars.html>

3. Introduce game: Who was searching for baby Jesus? Wise Men

Wise Men Search

Need: Clothes pin to be baby Jesus.

Directions: One student is picked to be a Wise Man and steps out of the classroom. Another student is picked by the teacher to hide baby Jesus somewhere in the classroom. When baby Jesus is hidden, the Wise Man comes back into the room. He is to find baby Jesus by directions from the student that hid baby Jesus. These directions are: the star is not very bright if the Wise Man is far away, brighter if somewhat nearer, getting brighter if even closer, and VERY bright if very close. When the Wise Man finds the baby Jesus, the person that hid baby Jesus is now the Wise Man.

OR

Introduce game: What did the Wise Men follow to find Jesus? A very bright star.

Really Big Book of Bible Games (some games below to pick from)

Journey to Bethlehem (page 141)

Coin Toss (page 139)

4. Puzzles & Mazes, Worksheets, etc.

The Great Bible Big Fun Activity Book: From the Old and New Testaments by Toni Lind

Wise Men color by number

Follow the Dots to see what the Magi saw in the sky

More 365 Activities for Kids (do any of the Wise Men puzzles, mazes, dot-to-dot, spot the difference, etc. from August 3 - 8).

Wise Men (maze)- http://www.sermons4kids.com/wise_men_maze.htm

Wise Men (maze)-

http://biblewise.com/images/kids_korner/fun_games/2006/december/wise_men_maze.pdf

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Wise Men Visit Jesus (maze)-

http://biblewise.com/images/kids_korner/fun_games/2004/december/wisemen.pdf

Wise Men (missing objects)-

http://biblewise.com/images/kids_korner/fun_games/2006/december/missing_objects.pdf

5. Introduce snack- How did the Wise Men find Jesus? They followed a very bright star.

Gingerbread Stars- <http://www.pillsbury.com/recipes/ShowRecipe.aspx?rid=16458>

Crispy Cheese Stars- <http://jas.familyfun.go.com/recipefinder/display?id=50250>

Peanut Butter and Jelly Stars- <http://jas.familyfun.go.com/recipefinder/display?id=40728>
(You can also get a large star shaped cookie cutter and make star shaped peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.)

Graham Cracker Stars- <http://www.gbqm-umc.org/marshltn/VBSsnack.html#Graham>

Spread peanut butter on star shaped crackers.

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