


Three Kings: Seeking Christ After Christmas



A 7-day unit
helping families
to dwell on
Christ and be
wholly devoted
to Him in the
New Year.



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Introduction

This unit study on the three kings was inspired by our family's desire to continue pursuing Jesus after December 25th. Advent draws us near to the heart of God in holy anticipation of Emmanuel - God With Us. Christmas day brings merriment and rejoicing as we celebrate that He is here!

This study on the three kings will help your family dwell on the incarnation of Christ from Christmas day into the New Year. Together, we will reflect upon the revelation of Jesus to the world and in our lives. We will also take action on that revelation as we usher in a new year dedicated to the Lord.

The study is 7 days and each lesson includes a daily reading, devotion, crafts and activities. The seventh day features a Three Kings Day party using all the information and crafts from the study.

Lesson Outline

- 1.Kings in Context
- 2.Following the Star
- 3.Seeking Jesus
- 4.King of Kings
- 5.Gifts of the Magi
- 6.Our Gifts to Jesus
- 7.Revealing Jesus to the World (Three Kings Party)

How to Use These Lessons

You can use this study as a part of your December activities leading up to Christmas, with a traditional Christmastide observance that ends on Epiphany, or start it right after Christmas.

Our family will be starting the first lesson on Christmas night and ending on New Year's Eve. Our party will be on New Year's Eve, which is perfect for our littles who do not stay up late for the New Year celebration. It is also a nice fit because the activities for the lessons lead into what gifts we can give to Jesus in the coming year.

Day 1: Kings in Context

Today's Reading:

Matthew 2:1-12

(Read through the entire account of the wise men. We will focus in on different parts on other days of the study.)

Devotion

In the story of Christmas, we learn about the magi: a group of special men who searched out the stars for news of the Messiah and set out on an epic journey to find Him. These men may not have believed in that Messiah when their journey began, but they probably did once they arrived! The magi are also often called the wise men or the three kings. They probably weren't really kings, but they were very important men in their time.

The story of the kings is important for many reasons. Through the kings and their visit, Jesus revealed himself as King of all people. The story reminds us that later on, as a grown man, Jesus would reveal Himself as our King, our God, and savior of the world. It also foretells of a time still in the future when every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. (Philippians 2:10-11)

We will be taking the next several days to travel along with the three kings. We will learn about the star they followed, their journey to Jesus, their worship of Him and the gifts they gave, and how we can follow their example in our lives. At the end of our journey, we will celebrate all we've learned about God with a big Three Kings Day party!

However, we must first prepare ourselves and the kings for the journey...

Discussion Questions:

- How many wise men do you think there were? Why?
- Why do you think they decided to try to find Jesus?
- How did the kings know that Jesus was special? Do you think they knew He was God?

Activity/Craft: Traveling Kings

Use the Traveling Kings sheet in this document to create a visual demonstration of the journey of the wise men as they sought after Jesus. You can keep your nativity set out and use those kings if you wish, but either way this is a fun way for the kids to play at the story.

Start the wise men out on the opposite side of the house from the baby Jesus. Explain that each day as they learn about the kings' journey, they will move them a little bit closer to Jesus. On the day they reach Jesus, you will have a big Three Kings Day party!

You can print the color copies or have your kids color the black and white copies. Simply cut the page to separate the mirror images and tape to the sides of two toilet paper rolls, a tissue box, etc.

More Traveling Kings:

- [The three wise men on one paper roll](#) from Sunday School Crafts
- [Shampoo bottle wise men](#) from Totally Tots

Day 2: Following the Star

Today's Reading:

(Move the traveling kings closer to Jesus)

Matthew 2:1-12

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.'"

Matthew 2:9-10

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

Numbers 24:17a

"I see him, but now now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;"

Devotion:

A special and fantastic star appeared in the sky, put there by God to signal to the magi that the King of the Jews had been born. There are different theories about what the star may have been like or how the wise men followed it. However, we can be sure that the star was amazing enough to convince the wise men to follow it, and that it brought them to Jesus.

In Philippians 2:15-16, we are told to "shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life," and drawing people to Jesus because we shine with His love and holiness. Are you shining for Jesus? Are people drawn to Him because they see your brightness and sense God in it? Let's pray now that He would shine through us to everyone we meet today so that we can give glory to Him.

Discussion Questions:

- What do you think the star looked like?
- Have you ever seen a star that moved? What do you think the wise men were saying to each other as they followed it?
- We know that God created all the stars. Do you think it's too hard for Him to make a special, super-bright star that moves just for the three kings?

Activity/Craft: Star Hats

These small stars will be used for a Find the Stars game during the Three Kings Day party. Print the small stars and color them with bright colors. Adding papers, glitter, sequins, beads, or any other fun things would be great too.

Staple or glue a couple of strips of construction paper together, measuring them around your child's head first so you have the right headband size. Attach one or more stars to the hat and let them run around, shining for Jesus!

Print and decorate the large star in the same way. It will be used later for the Three Kings Day party. In the meantime, put it up on a board or wall as a decoration.

More star crafts and resources:

- [Drinking straw and bead stars](#) from Pink and Green Mama
- [Twiggy Stars](#) from Happy Hooligans
- [10 Christmas Star Crafts](#) from The Classroom Creative
- [The Star of Bethlehem: A Supernatural Sign in the Heavens?](#) from Answers in Genesis

Day 3: Seeking Jesus

Today's Reading:

(Move the traveling kings closer to Jesus)

Matthew 2:1-2

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.'"

Devotion:

The wise men traveled long and far from the East to find Jesus. They must have been very persistent and determined in their journey! Perhaps they sometimes had doubts that they were going doing the right thing by following that miraculous star. Maybe others made fun of them or put them down. It is likely that their travels were hard and possibly even dangerous. But standing firm in their belief, they pressed on in spite of obstacles. Finding Jesus was the most important thing

This is still true for us today! Finding Jesus as walking with Him is the most important thing, above all else. We all need Jesus. We all sin and are separated from God, but because of His love, Jesus came to be our high King our Lord, and our Savior, forgiving our sins and bringing us into the open arms of God. Have you asked Jesus to be your friend forever, and to be the Lord of your life? Have you told Jesus that you know you need Him to save you from your sins and asked Him to forgive you? If not, talk to your parents and ask them to pray with you. Jesus longs to be your High King and give you the Holy Spirit to help you stay on the right path.

If Jesus is already your King, what have you done to search Him our today? Although He is always present with you, you can seek to be close to Him by praying, listening, singing to Him, talking and thinking about Him, and reading His Word.

Discussion Questions:

- Is Jesus the King of your life? How do you know?
- What can you do today to be closer to Jesus?
- What does it feel like when we spend time with the Lord?

Activity/Craft: Wise Kids Seek Jesus Placemats

These placemats can be used during the Three Kings Day party. The idea for the craft comes from [Mrs. Karen's Preschool Ideas](#). Each child has a piece of paper, either standard size or larger if you want a bigger placemat. Use brown paint and have the child make three upside down handprints with brown paint. The fingers will be the camel's legs and the thumb will be the head. Draw tails on if you wish.

Using a different color for each wise man, use a finger to put their bodies on top of the camels. You can do a final finger print on the top in tan or brown and draw a face and crowns on them if you'd like. You can also add a felt, drawn, or painted star for them to follow.

Print the "Wise Kids Seek Jesus" page and glue or tape it onto the page. Take it to a local print shop to get it laminated for use as a placemat, or make it a fun Christmas decoration or gift for a family member.

More three kings lessons and resources:

- [Wise men coloring sheet](#) at Making Friends
- [Wise Men Worship Jesus](#) at Sermons 4 Kids
- [Wise Men Paper Craft](#) at MSSS Crafts
- [Camel and Wise Men Crafts](#) at DLTK
- [Wise Men Fingerplay](#) at Cullen's ABCs
- [Wise Men Puzzle](#) at Christian Preschool Printables
- [W is for Wise Men handwriting practice](#) at First School

Day 4: King of Kings

Today's Reading:

(Move the traveling kings closer to Jesus)

Matthew 2:1-12

(Read the entire passage or read the [DLTK kid's version of the three wise men story.](#))

Devotion:

The magi knew that Jesus was very special. In fact, they knew that he was the King of the Jews that everyone had been waiting for. Even though the wise men were important, they knew that Jesus was the ultimate King. When they finally found Jesus, they bowed down before him and worshiped Him. Then they gave him gifts fit for a king. The King of Kings!

They weren't the only ones who knew how amazing and important Jesus was. The Jewish people had been waiting for a Messiah, which is a way of saying "Savior." King Herod also knew that there was something very important about Jesus. He didn't want anyone to be more important than him and he thought he could stop God's plan for His people by trying to kill Jesus. Of course, he did not succeed! God protected Jesus, His only son and the King of heaven.

Discussion Questions:

- What does a king do? What are they like?
- What things about Jesus are evidence that He is the ultimate King?
- Is there anyone who is too important to bow down to Jesus? Parents, teachers, coaches, presidents, or kings?

Activity/Craft: King's Crowns

These crowns can be worn during the Three Kings Day party. Print the crown pages in this document and allow the kids to color and decorate them. You may want to use card stock or laminate them. Then attach them to the same type of headband used for the star hats.

Here are more ideas for kings' crowns:

- [Kings crowns complete with garland](#) from Preschool Daze
- [Paper Scrap Crowns](#) from The Craft Train
- [Paper Plate Crowns](#) from Pure Play Kids
- [Pipe Cleaner Crowns](#) from Sturdy for Common Things

Day 5: Gifts of the Magi

Today's Reading:

(Move the traveling kings closer to Jesus)

Matthew 2:11

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Devotion:

Gold, frankincense, and myrrh may seem like strange gifts for a little child. These gifts, however, were very meaningful and very important to the wise men. Tradition says that gold represented kingship. We've already talked about how Jesus is the King of Kings, so gold was a great gift for the wise men to give Him! Jesus' parents also may have used it to help care for Him as He was growing up.

Frankincense is resin that comes from the sap of a tree. It is used as incense, which means that it is burned because of the pleasant scent it releases. Frankincense looks like small milky white rocks and was very valuable in the time of Jesus. It also has a symbolic meaning, representing Jesus' holiness, divinity, or priesthood. When we think of Frankincense, we can think about how Jesus is not only the King of Kings, but He is holy, being One with God.

Myrrh is an expensive spice that was used as incense or for anointing the dead to prepare them for burial. Myrrh was given as a gift of great value, but it also represents the sacrifice that Jesus would make on the cross to pay for the sins of the world.

A wonderful thing about the gifts of the magi is how they represent the gift that Jesus is to us. 1) They gave Him gold because He is king - He is the loving ruler of our lives and we will live with Him forever in heaven if we believe in Him. 2) They gave Him frankincense because He is the High Priest - He prays for us now continuously and reconciles us with God. 3)

They gave Him myrrh because He would die - He gave Himself up for us so that we would live!

Discussion Questions:

- If you had been one of the wise men, what would you have taken as a gift for Jesus?
- What do you think the containers of the gifts looked like?
- What is the most meaningful gift you've ever received?
- What kinds of gifts does Jesus give you?

Activity/Craft: Magi's Gift Jars

These jars can be a part of the centerpiece for the Three Kings Day party. You need glass jars, colorful tissue paper, glue, paint brushes, and jar fillers. Paint each jar with a mixture of half glue and half water. Then paste small squares of the tissue to them. You can do several layers with more glue if you'd like. You can also print the magi gift label page in this document and paste them to the side of the jar.

Fill one jar with chocolate gold pieces (or gold tinsel, fake gold pieces, etc.). Fill the frankincense jar with white decorative stones from the dollar store (or white candies, legos, or anything small and white). Fill the myrrh jar with red decorative stones (red candies, etc.)

Here are more things to explore for the gifts of the magi:

- [Scents of Christmas Sensory Activity](#) from Meet Penny
- [Gold Frankincense and Myrrh ornament crafts](#) from Sunday School Crafts
- [Wise men with gifts coloring page with text](#) from First School

Day 6: Our Gifts to Jesus

The Day's Reading:

(Move the traveling kings closer to Jesus)

James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Devotion:

We've talked about the special gifts that the magi brought to Jesus after He was born. One way people celebrate Christmas is by giving gifts to each other just as the kings gave gifts to Jesus and He gave us the gift of Himself!

What gifts can we give Jesus today? With the brand new year coming up, what kinds of gifts do you think Jesus wants from us? God's Word tells us the things that are most precious to God. Look back on today's reading and see if you can find some clues for a few of the things on Jesus' wish list.

Discussion Questions:

- Think of three things that you can do this week that would make Jesus happy.
- What is different about these gifts than the kinds of gifts you ask for?
- What are some gifts that you have received that can't be wrapped up, such as the care of loving parents, a sunny winter day, or a good friend?

Activity/Craft: Jesus' Gift Box

This box can be a part of the centerpiece for the Three Kings Day party. You need an empty tissue paper box, wrapping paper, tape, and strips of paper or the Gifts for Jesus page later in this document.

Cover the empty tissue paper box with wrapping paper. If it's a pretty box, you may be able to just print the Gifts for Jesus label in this document and tape or glue it on. Print the Gifts for Jesus page and cut out the strips. Help the children brainstorm gifts for Jesus and write them on the papers. You can do some now and some during the Three Kings Day celebration.

Ideas:

- Volunteering to help clean up after Sunday services
- Writing cards to someone someone who is sick, elderly, in the military, etc.
- Memorizing a passage of the Bible
- Praying every night before bed

After the new year, try pulling one of the papers out on occasion and working on it with your child. They can draw another one when the previous one is completed.

More ideas about kids serving Jesus in the New Year:

- [Helping Our Children Run the Race - Setting Goals](#) from Doorposts (highly recommend)
- [New Year's Bible Lesson](#) from Little Blots

Day 7: Revealing Jesus to the World (Three Kings Day Party!!)

The Day's Reading:

(Move the traveling kings so that they've arrived to see Jesus!)

Print out and read [DLTK Three Wise Men song and lyric chart](#).

Time for your Three Kings Party!

Act out the story of the three kings.

- **Jesus:** Put a doll in a basket on one side of the house and have the children start at the other side.
- **Kings:** Children wear their crowns and journey toward Jesus.
- **Star:** Make a star pole using the big star from the star craft and tie it by string to a long pole or stick. The children can take turns holding the star and they can all follow it to Jesus.
- **Gifts:** Place the Magi Gift Jars near Jesus so that when the children find Jesus they can present them to him and bow down in worship.

Celebration Meal/Snack:

- **Table:** Set the table with a centerpiece using the Magi Gift Jars and the Gifts for Jesus box. Let the kids wear their crowns and use their Wise Kids Seek Jesus placemats.
- **Banner:** Create a felt or paper banner that says "Three Kings Day!" or "Jesus is King of Kings!"
- **Devotion:** Spend some time before or during the meal reviewing the lessons learned in the past several days and praying to Jesus, praising Him and thanking Him.
- **Food:** Serve fun and easy foods for the meal or snack. It doesn't need to be fancy. See the links below for traditional Three Kings Day celebration foods.
- **Cake:** Serve a cake with white or brown frosting. Print the Cake Topper page and cut out the crown, possibly laminating it. Tape it onto a craft stick and insert into the top of the cake.

Games/Activities:

- **Find the Stars:** Take the stars from the star hats craft and hid them around the house for the kids to find.
- **Walk Like a Camel:** Have everyone stand on one side of the house with 12 blown up balloons. Each person has to put a balloon between their knees and walk quickly to the other side before the next person can start. You can also do this with two teams competing against each other. To add a challenge, have the person walk with the balloon to a bowl of water on a table, suck in water (like a camel, of course) then walk to the sink and spit it out before going on to cross the finish line.
- **A star piñata** would be fun! Perhaps filled with the contents of the Magi Gift Jars.

Here are more ideas for your Three Kings Day party:

- [Dora's Three Kings Day Party](#)
- [How to Prepare a Traditional Three Kings Day Meal](#) from eHow
- Gluten and sugar free [cake](#) idea from Intoxicated On Life
- [Celebrating Epiphany With Your Child](#) from Living Montessori Now

Traveling Kings - Black and White



Traveling Kings - Color



