



**January 3, 2021**  
**Epiphany: The Visit of the Wise Men**  
**Matthew 2**

Last week, we learned how Simeon and Anna got to visit the baby Jesus in the temple and see him face to face. This week, we will learn about some very wise men who came to visit Jesus in a house in Bethlehem sometime later. God sent a unique star to guide these visitors to where Jesus was. God revealed to them that Jesus was a very special baby, a king to be worshipped. These wise men gave Jesus' family expensive gifts fit for a king: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But, not everyone was so happy that a new king had been born. There were those who would try to kill him but, as we will see, God was constantly watching and guiding to keep Jesus safe.

Watch the video to learn more about how God guided the wise men and also Joseph and Mary:

<https://youtu.be/Zk1LhnqROCM>

When you go to a new place, how do you find where you are supposed to go if you have never been there before? When you're a kid, you ask your parents or other adults to help you. Sometimes adults might use a map, or an online map, like Google Maps. Or, they may just ask someone, who knows, how to get there. Some cars and phones also have GPS, which tells you directions for how to get to a certain place. You can just say, "Hey Siri," "Get directions to..." and she will tell you how to get there.

The people in Jesus' time did not have things like Google Maps, GPS, or Siri but that did not stop God from guiding the wise men to where Jesus was. First, he put a special star in the sky that guided them to Jerusalem, the big city in Judea where King Herod lived and ruled. When they asked Herod about where the newborn king was, Herod didn't know. But since he was jealous and wanted to find out, he found some people who would know. He talked to the chief priests and scribes, the people who knew what God's word said about where Jesus, the Christ child, would be born.

Read Matthew 2:6 below. Where did the chief priests and scribes tell Herod that the Christ child was to be born?

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.” Mathew 2:6

How did they know this? They knew what the prophet Micah had written about where Jesus would be born:

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.” Micah 5:2

Do you see how similar this verse (Micah 5:2) is to Matthew 2:6? Micah wrote this hundreds of years before Jesus was born. The prophet, Micah, knew this because God told him what to write.

So, God guided the wise men with the star and he guided them with His word so that they would know where to find Jesus. But, then he also warned them in dream not to go back and tell King Herod where they had found Jesus. Herod was very jealous and wanted to kill Jesus. He didn't want there to be another king besides him.

God also guided Joseph and Mary so that they could keep Jesus safe.

Read Matthew 2:13 below:

“Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”

Where did God tell Joseph to go so that Jesus would be safe? Do you see how God was guiding Joseph once again?

Let's look at one more time in our story where God guided Joseph and Mary in the direction they needed to go. After King Herod had died, God appeared to Joseph again in a dream and told him it was okay to go back to the land of Israel where they were from. But Matthew 2:22-23 shows that God was still watching over them and guiding them:

“But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.”

So, Joseph and Mary did not go back to Bethlehem or Jerusalem, but went to live in Nazareth instead. God was guiding them every step of the way. Even though Jesus came to the earth to die for us, it was not God’s plan that He die as a baby. God kept Jesus safe as a baby, so that He could grow up and die on the cross at the right time. This was for all of us, and this was God’s plan from the beginning.

Do you know that God guides and watches over every part of your life, too? Psalm 139:16 says:

“Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

This means that God saw all of the days of our life before we were even born! If he can do that, we can trust that He will be there to guide us each day, just like he guided

the wise men and just like He guided Joseph and Mary. We can use God’s word as a guide for our life.

### **Prayer:**

Dear God,

We ask that you would watch over us and guide us in the way you want us to go. Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to be my savior. Thank you for making my story part of your story of salvation. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Attached are the following activities for you to do:

**Three Kings Coloring Page**

**The Visit of the Magi Word Search**

**Journey of the Wise Men Spot the Differences**

**Journey of the Wise Men Crossword**

For those who love to get creative, try the:

### **Three Kings Craft Idea**



For this craft you will need:

-Wooden or plastic spoons

-Glue

-Decorating supplies such as:

markers

construction paper or wrapping paper

sequins, beads, or buttons

ribbon or yarn

or anything you can find at home