

POINT ➔ WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.

Open your Bible to Matthew 2, and show children the words. SAY: **Today you're going to hear about some men from the Bible—God's special book—who came to worship the Mighty Mini Jesus.**

Hold up the illustration on the back of this card. Ask kids to point to the star.

SAY: **After Jesus was born, some wise men from the East saw the bright star and knew it was showing them the way to something very important.**

ASK: **Tell about a time you looked for something or someone.**

SAY: **The wise men followed the star a long, long way to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem the men asked King Herod about a special child who had been born to be king.**

ASK: **Name two things that make you a special child.**

SAY: King Herod didn't like the idea that there might be a new king to take his place. He was worried and mad. The wise men left King Herod and followed the star some more until they found Jesus and his family.

ASK: **How far would you like to travel if it meant you could see Jesus in person?**

SAY: **The men bowed down and worshipped Jesus. They gave Jesus special gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh. Incense and myrrh are things that smell good.**

ASK: **What's one gift you can give to Jesus?**

SAY: **The wise men knew that ➔ WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH. So they traveled for a very long time to find Jesus and give him presents. What a wonderful way to celebrate the new King, Jesus!**



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Choose four Leaders and a King Herod. Separate King Herod from the others. Leaders will lead the rest of the children as follows:

Leader 1—Ask this child to lead others on the trip from the East to Jerusalem. Leader 1 could pretend to ride camels or lead the group to put their hands around their eyes as if they are looking for which way to go. Hold up this card and have Leader 1 direct kids to it, pointing to the star in the picture.

Leader 2—Ask this child to lead kids to an area of the room where King Herod is, and pretend to talk to the king by cupping their hands around their mouths.

Leader 3—Ask this child to lead kids to a corner where they will bow down and worship.

Leader 4—Ask this child to lead the children in stretching out their arms and pretending to bring gifts to Jesus.

ASK: The star helped the wise men find Jesus. What helps you feel close to Jesus?

In our activity, people led you around the room. Tell about people you can follow so you'll know how to celebrate Jesus.

SAY: The wise men went to find Jesus and worshipped him by bringing him gifts. ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.**

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Play  "We Three Kings" (track 10) on the *CD*. Lead the children in acting out this song using the motions in parentheses.

SING:

We three kings of Orient are, (*hold up three fingers*)

Bearing gifts we traverse afar, (*take a few slow steps forward, with your palms up*)

Field and fountain, moor and mountain, (*hop, then pretend to climb*)

Following yonder star. (*twinkle fingers over your head*)

O star of wonder, star of night,
(twinkle one set of fingers, then the other set)

Star with royal beauty bright,
(twinkle fingers over your head as you spin in a circle)

Westward leading, still proceed-ing,
(turn to the side and take a few steps)

Guide us to thy perfect light. (*kneel down*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"We Three Kings" by John H. Hopkins, Jr.

ASK: Tell about a time you could see a lot of stars.

What was so special about the star the wise men saw?

How would you be able to follow a star?

SAY: When we can see a lot of stars, it's pretty! But the wise men saw one special star they knew was different. They knew it meant there was a special baby born to be a king. So they went to find him. Just like the wise men, we can look for Jesus and give him gifts. ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.**

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Show children the picture on the back of this card. SAY: **After Jesus was born, wise men from far away came to visit Jesus. They brought gifts for Jesus and worshipped him. Let's imagine we're going on a long trip.**

SAY: **First, let's take the trip by walking.** Lead kids in walking around the room. SAY: **Now, let's pretend we're in an airplane.** Lead kids in soaring with arms out. SAY: **How about in a car?** Lead kids in holding pretend steering wheels and "driving" around the room. SAY: **Now, let's travel in a boat!** Have kids rock back and forth as they walk around the room.

ASK: **Tell about a time you took a really long trip.**

What did you do when you got to the new place on your trip?

What was your favorite part of the trip?

SAY: **The wise men took a really long trip without any cars or plane or boats. But it was worth it when they got to see Jesus. They celebrated by bringing gifts to Jesus. We don't have to travel far to celebrate Jesus' birth. ➤ WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH anywhere, because Jesus is everywhere.**

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SAY: The wise men brought gifts to Jesus. Let's make our own gifts for Jesus.

Give children paper and crayons, and have them draw a picture of a gift they want to give to Jesus. Prop up the Week 3 *Bible Buzz Card* picture of Jesus' birth in your *Mighty Minis Box*. After the children finish drawing their gifts, have them each tell about their gift. Then have the children bring their gift pictures and place them near the picture of Jesus in the manger.

ASK: What gifts are you giving to others this Christmas?

Why do you think they'd like those gifts?

What kind of gifts would people normally give a baby?

SAY: The wise men brought Jesus fancy things, even though he was just a baby or toddler. Most people might bring a baby a rattle or some soft blocks. But the wise men knew Jesus wasn't an ordinary baby. Jesus was a king! ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH** when we give him gifts like worshipping him in song and loving him in our hearts.