

WISE MEN VISIT JESUS

Do you remember the good news that Isaiah declared before Jesus was born? He said, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” The wise men from the east also remembered this good news, so when they saw a special star in the sky, they followed it.

The birth of Jesus was such a big event that the great King Herod heard of it. He did not want anyone to take attention away from him or compete with his power, so he told the wise men to report back to him after they saw Jesus.

The special star guided them all the

way to Bethlehem. When they arrived, they celebrated with great joy. They saw Jesus and knew the good news was true! They fell down on their faces and worshipped Him. They also opened their treasures and gave him gifts of great value.

When it was time for them to leave, they did not return to King Herod. God warned them to return home another way. For he knew the evil plans Herod had. Soon after that an angel appeared to Jesus’ parents and told them to flee to Egypt. From then on, many people tried to put out the great light that shone from Jesus. When he got older he encouraged others to keep shining, just like he did. He said, “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise God in heaven.”



Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east. We came to worship him.” When King Herod heard about this new king of the Jews, he was troubled. And all the people in Jerusalem were worried too. Herod called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ would be born. They answered, “In the town of Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this in the Scriptures: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are important among the rulers of Judah. A ruler will come from you. He will be like a shepherd for my people, the Israelites.’” Then Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men from the east. He learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. Then Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. He said to them, “Go and look carefully to find the child. When you find him, come tell me. Then I can go worship him too.” The wise men heard the king and

then left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east. It went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped the child. They opened the gifts they brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country by a different way.

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Devotional Activity

1. Do you think the birth of Jesus is a big deal today?
2. What kind of gifts can we give Jesus today?
3. Why do you think some people do not want Jesus’ light to shine?
4. How can you shine your light for Jesus?