

Unit Title : **FAITH**
Lesson 8 : **FAITH OF THE MAGI**
Bible Story : **Magi Worship King Jesus**
Lesson Scripture : **Matthew 2:1-11**

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, the student will be able to:

1. define who were the Magi or Wise Men in the Bible;
2. feel a sense of adventure and joy at the coming of Christ;
3. understand that the wise men came to worship Jesus as King,
4. know that the best gift we can give Jesus is our worship and obedience;
5. to recite the memory verse

BIBLE REFERENCE

[Matthew 2:11 \(New International Reader's Version\)](#)

""The Wise Men went to the house. They bowed down and worshiped Him. They gave Him gold, incense and myrrh."

WORDS TO REMEMBER

Magi - are popularly referred to as wise men and kings. The word magi is the plural of Latin *magus*. The term also refers to the Persian priestly which paid particular attention to the stars and gained an international reputation for astrology, which was at that time highly regarded as a science.

Herod - He is the King of Jerusalem when Jesus Christ was born. He is a very troubled man. He was known as a wicked and cruel king. As time passed, he became very suspicious of anyone trying to take away his crown and he would not be the king anymore. History tells us that whenever he became suspicious of anyone, he would have them put to death.

Bethlehem – place where Jesus Christ was born.

PRE-SESSION ACTIVITY

Play a game, sing a song or give them activity to introduce the new lesson.

(Activities may vary depending on age level and purpose of the lesson either for Sunday school or outreach ministry.)

- Teach younger children how to draw a star. Write "Jesus is Special" on a star.
- Create the wise men's crown
- Word search - The Magi Search for Jesus

A. PREPARATION and MOTIVATION

Teacher, review the past lessons.

1. Who is Rahab?
2. Why did Rahab hide the spies? *she believed their God would be victorious and wanted to be saved*
3. What did the spies report to Joshua? *that the whole area was afraid of them*
4. How many spies went into Jericho? *two (2)*
5. What reward did God give Rahab? *her family was saved, she became an ancestor of Christ*
6. What did the centurion ask Jesus to do?
7. How did the centurion show his faith to Jesus?
8. What happened to the sick servant?
9. Why do you think Jesus was so impressed with the centurion?
10. Why did the blind man cry out to Jesus?
11. What did the man do when he was able to see?
12. Who is Naaman and where did he live?
13. What disease did Naaman have?
14. Who told Naaman how to make his leprosy go away?
15. What message did Elisha's servant give Naaman?
16. What happened when Naaman dipped in the Jordan River seven times?
17. Why did Elimelech and Naomi take their two sons and move away from Bethlehem?
18. What happened to Naomi's family in Moab?
19. Which daughter-in-law refused to leave Naomi?
20. Whose field did Ruth gather in?
21. How did Boaz shown Ruth kindness?
22. How many spies were sent into the Promised Land?
23. How many brought back a good report?
24. Name the two spies who gave a good report.
25. Why were the people afraid to go into the Promised Land?
26. What did the lepers ask of Jesus?
27. How many lepers returned to thank Jesus?
28. Who returned to give thanks?
29. Why is it important to give thanks to God?

B. INTRODUCTION

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

To begin the story, show a present that's beautifully wrapped. Ask if they like to receive gifts. What can be inside? (let the children guess).

Tell the students that God sent us a special gift that is for **EVERYONE** - all people, you, them, - anyone that would like to receive Him.

C. LESSON

Read today's story aloud from the Bible, or by showing pictures, or tell the story in your own words. (*Focus on giving honor to Jesus through worship*)

THE WISE MEN

During the time when Jesus was born, there was a very mean king who ruled the land. His name was King Herod.

Soon after Jesus was born, wise men were traveling on their camels. One night, they noticed a very strange star in the sky. They knew that this star meant that the King of the Jews, **the One who would save the world had been born.**

When the mean King Herod heard this he got very worried.

He called a meeting with all the other important people in the area and asked them where this special baby had been born. The people replied, "**In Bethlehem**". They knew this because they heard that one day a special person would come from there and take care of all the people.

Then King Herod called the wise men to a secret meeting and found out from them exactly where they saw the star. He then told them, "Go and find this child. As soon as you find Him, tell me, so that I can go and worship Him."

After they had spoken to the King, the wise men left to find the baby. They didn't know exactly where the baby was, but at night they followed the star in the east. They followed the star until it hung right over the very place where Jesus was.

When they finally had arrived, they were very excited and happy. They found Jesus lying in Mary's arms, and they bowed down and worshipped Him.

They opened the gifts they had brought Jesus. The gifts were gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These were very expensive gifts; these were gifts that you would give to a King, not to a baby. Mary thanked them for bringing the gifts for Jesus, and the wise men went to find a place to sleep for the night.

Points:

- The wise men had an attitude of urgency. These men were Gentiles. They did not have the scriptures, yet they desired the truth.
- They wanted to find the King. The wise men saw a new-born baby on the lap of a poor woman, and yet worshipped Him and confessed that He was Christ.
- The wise men had an attitude of joy. If we have this joy, people will see it. Joy comes from knowing Jesus - from the personal assurance that He has saved us by His grace.
- The wise men had an attitude of worship. This was the purpose of their journey. This is what made their journey worthwhile.

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

"Faith... hope for what we do not see."

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Who was king when Jesus was born?
2. What is another name for wise men from the east?
3. How did the wise men know where Jesus was at?
4. What gifts did the magi give to Jesus?
5. Besides giving gifts, what else did the magi do when they saw Jesus?

If you were there at Jesus' birth, what would you bring him? *(allow the children to response)*

LIFE APPLICATION

Let us walk in the steps of Magi's faith. Let us not be ashamed to believe in Jesus and confess Him, though all around us remain careless and unbelieving. The magi really were wise men. **And today, wise men still seek Him.** Wise men still serve Him and wise men still worship Him. If we are "wise" or wanted to be "wise", we should seek, serve and worship Him no matter what with an attitude of joy.

ACTIVITY

A Special Star

Materials needed: White star pre-cut for each child, silver glitter & glue stick.

Text slip: "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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great Joy."

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us this wonderful gift! Thank you for sending us Jesus, your One and Only Son. Show us how we can worship Christ in everything we do. Help us to be wise, to seek, serve and worship You at all times. Amen.

If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.