

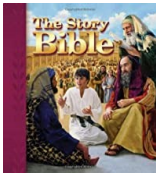
“The Epiphany of Our Lord”

Follow the Star ~ January 6

Bible verse: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, so that whoever believed in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Epiphany ~ (def.) is an experience of a sudden and striking realization. The Epiphany refers to a realization that Christ is the Son of God .

The Wise Men, Jesus had come into this sinful world to redeem all men, for all men are sinners. When He was born in Bethlehem, some people came to greet and honor Him; but some showed themselves as His better enemies and even wanted to kill Him.



Read the Lesson ~ The Visit of the Wise Men

The Story Bible ~ Page 285

The Bible ~ Matthew 2:1-12

ASK:

- ◆How did God take care of His Son and keep him safe?
- ◆By faith, we too are the children of God. How does God take care of us?
- ◆What did God use to lead the Wise Men to Jesus?

DO:

Make a special star and hang in where you can see it everyday. To remind you that God takes care of his children. Say a pray of thanks when you see it.

PRAY:

Heavenly Father, thank You for leading the Wise Men to see and worship Jesus. Lead me to see Jesus and worship Him as my Savior. Amen.

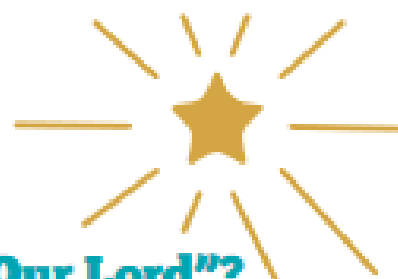
Key Point of the Lesson

Look to the star, prepare the way, Christ our King was born to save.

Words to Remember

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is who we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. 1 John 3:1

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is “The Epiphany of Our Lord”?

The word “epiphany” (pronounced ee-PIF-uh-nee) comes from the Greek word meaning “manifestation.” Jesus was made known to all people simply by being born. If we had been alive back then, we could have actually reached out and touched Jesus! He was real, and the evidence was in His birth!

Why do we celebrate Epiphany?

Epiphany is the third part of the Christmas season. During this special season in the Church Year, we remember the visit of the Wise Men. Traditionally, this visit is celebrated on Jan. 6.



Epiphany also brings to mind many other important events in Jesus’ life. For example, we remember Jesus’ Baptism, the star that guided the Wise Men, and most importantly, His birth! Wow! There sure is a lot happening after Christmas!



Parents: “God in flesh made manifest” is a hard statement for children to understand. Be sure to remind them that Jesus is real, alive and once walked on the earth for all to see. When Holy Communion is offered, be sure to let your children attend with you. Instruct them that this is where Christ manifests and gives His true body and blood for us.





The Visit of the Magi. Matthew 2: 7-12



What did you learn about God today?



When they
saw the
STAR,
they
REJOICED
exceedingly
with great
JOY.

MATTHEW 2:10

DEAR
JESUS,



AMEN.

Unscramble Words from the Scripture Readings

EMDAR

JRIECDOE

SFITG

SPOWRIH

RSAEI

YRSYETM

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FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP TIME

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

P: **Amen.**

L: O Lord, in the morning You hear my voice;

P: **In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch. (Psalm 5:3)**

L: My mouth is filled with Your praise,

P: **And with Your glory all the day. (Psalm 71:8)**

L: O Lord, open my lips,

P: **And my mouth will declare Your praise. (Psalm 71:8)**

L: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

P: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day: "God's Own Child I Gladly Say It" LSB 594

Devotional Talk: *An adult or older child can read this to the family.*

Where have you seen stars?

You might see stars many places—in the sky or on a police officer's badge, or maybe on the dressing room door of a singer or actor. But after Christmas we thank about a special star that God used to show people the way to His Son.

Soon after Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Wise Men from the east came looking for Him. These Wise Men were astrologers—men who studied the stars. They had seen a bright new star and knew it meant that the King of the Jews had been born. They followed that star all the way to Jerusalem. There they went to the palace, the place where they figured the new King must be.

But when they asked about the newborn King, no one knew what they meant. When King Herod heard about it, he began to worry. He didn't want anyone else to take his place as king. So he asked some teachers who studied the Bible, "Where will the Christ be born?"

"The prophet wrote that He will be born in Bethlehem in Judea," they answered.

So King Herod called for the Wise Men. He asked them some questions about the star they had followed. Then he told them, "You'll find the King in Bethlehem. And when you find Him, come back and report to me, so I may go worship Him too."

King Herod had lied to the Wise Men. He had no intention of worshiping Jesus.

The star led the Wise Men to Bethlehem. It rested right over the house where Mary Joseph, and Jesus lived. The Wise Men had found the King they were looking for. They bowed down and worshiped Him. They gave Him the precious gifts they had brought with them.

God used the star to show the Wise Men the way to Jesus. When they found Him, they worshiped Him and gave Him gifts.

God can use you the same way He used that star. He can use you to lead people to Jesus. You can shine like that star by telling someone how much you love Jesus. You can invite that person to go with you to church next week, or to pray with you before you go to bed or eat a meal.

You shine when you forgive someone who has hurt you, because you know that Jesus has forgiven you for the wrong things you have done. The love that you show reflects Jesus' love for that person and leads her to her Savior too.

God may lead you to shine like that star by becoming a pastor, missionary, or teacher when you grow up. Or you may shine as a Sunday school teacher or a singer in the choir. You might shine as a doctor or an engineer or a mechanic and tell your neighbors and people you work with about your Savior, Jesus.

Ask Jesus to use as one of His stars to lead people to Him. And then start looking for places to shine.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Epiphany! Thank You for sending the star that led the Wise Men to Jesus. Thank You for giving us faith, forgiveness, and life. Be with all the missionaries around the world, that they may share God's Word. Help Me to find places to shine and for the courage to share God's word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.