



FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of January 8, 2023: Matthew 2:1-23

Memory Verse

Matthew 2:10: *"When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy."*

Twinkle, Twinkle...

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.

When the blazing sun is gone,
When he nothing shines upon,
Then you show your little light,
Twinkle, twinkle, all the night.

Then the trav'ler in the dark,
Thanks you for your tiny spark,
He could not see which way to go
If you did not twinkle so

In the dark blue sky you keep,
And often thro' my curtains peep
For you never shut your eye,
Till the sun is in the sky.

'Tis your bright and tiny spark,
Lights the trav'ler in the dark,
Tho' I know not what you are,
Twinkle, twinkle, little star.



The Story

This story is familiar and is depicted on many Christmas cards, but the real story is actually very different. For one thing, the magi, or wise men, are usually pictured with the shepherds, which is incorrect. The shepherds came when Jesus was born and the magi came much later, when he was a child. (Also, the Bible says nothing about there being *three* "wise men.") But who are they? **Magi** are Persians who studied the stars. Some people thought they could make predictions about the future.

These magi or wise men came to Jerusalem, telling everyone that they've seen a special star – a sure sign that a new King of the Jews has been born. Herod was upset because he did not want another king. He gathered the religious leaders together to ask if they knew where the Messiah had been born. Pretending to be excited about the birth of the messiah, Herod sent the wise men off to Bethlehem to "make a careful search for the child" and to report back to Herod so he might worship the new King. Herod did not actually plan to worship the new king. The magi set off for Bethlehem. The star they had seen when they were in the east went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was.

The magi went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, incense, and myrrh. The magi were warned in a dream not to return to Herod so they went home another way. When Herod found out he was tricked by the magi, he ordered all boys under

Activity:

The three gifts were gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What is the significance of each?

1) Gold, a gift of great value, likely recognized that the Messiah was King of the Jews.

2) Frankincense was often burned in religious ceremonies and believed to carry prayers to heaven. This gift recognized the Priestly role of the Messiah.

3) Myrrh was an embalming ointment, recognizing that death is a sacrifice the Messiah would make.

Look around your house and see if you can find things that are gold or gold colored. What do you have around your house that smells nice? Do you have candles or room freshener? Do you have ointment such as lotion? These are gifts brought to Jesus.



*(Selected content used & adapted
©2014 Spill the Beans Resource
Team)*

age two killed. Joseph had a dream where God told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt and stay there until he was told it was safe to return. After Herod died, the family returned.

Theme and Discussion: This passage of the Bible is the story of the visit from the Wise Men and the family's escape to Egypt. Family discussion for younger children: What presents would you bring a baby?

Family discussion for older children: What gifts can we bring to Jesus? Time spent in worship is a gift. Prayer and service are gifts to God. When we pray, we are giving a gift to God and also receiving a gift in return.

Prayer: Dear God, Thank you for bringing Jesus to us as a baby. Help us to think of you when we look at the stars. May we seek you and worship you like the magi did. Amen.

Craft

Popsicle stick star

Needed - 5 popsicle sticks, glue, yellow paint and brush, glitter or beads, yarn or string.

Glue the end of the sticks together to form a star. Decorate as you wish!

Here's how you make it...

1. Glue two sticks together like an upside down V.
2. Glue 2 more sticks crossing each other.
3. Join the last two points by gluing a stick across.
4. Once the glue is dry, paint your star and add glitter glue and/or other embellishments, add string or yarn at the top to hang

