

DECEMBER 22

Children's Church Lesson: Christmas Theme – "The Wise Men Follow the Star"

Objective:

To teach children about the journey of the wise men who followed the star to find baby Jesus, and how we can seek Jesus in our lives today.

Scripture Focus:

Matthew 2:1-2 (NIV):

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'"

Lesson Outline:

1. Welcome & Introduction (5-7 minutes)

Ask the children:

- "Have you ever looked at the stars at night?"
- Let them talk about stars and what they know about them. Explain that today's lesson is about some wise men who followed a very special star to find Jesus.

2. Bible Story: The Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-12) (10 minutes)

Tell the story of the wise men (Magi) who traveled a long distance to find Jesus by following a star. Explain how they worshiped Jesus and brought Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Key Point:

Just like the wise men followed the star to find Jesus, we can seek and follow Jesus in our lives. The gifts they brought to Jesus showed how much they honored and loved Him.

3. Discussion Questions (5-7 minutes):

- How do you think the wise men felt when they finally found Jesus?
- Why do you think they brought gifts to Jesus?
- What can we give to Jesus as a gift today? (Our hearts, love, kindness, etc.)

4. Memory Verse Practice (5 minutes):

Teach the children Matthew 2:2, using hand motions or fun actions to help them remember the verse about the wise men seeking Jesus.

Craft: "Star of Bethlehem Wand"

Materials Needed:

- Craft sticks or dowels (for the wand)
- Yellow or gold construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks or tape
- Glitter or star stickers
- Markers or crayons
- Ribbon (optional)

Instructions:

1. **Create the Star**
 - Help the children cut out star shapes from yellow or gold construction paper. If needed, pre-cut stars for younger kids.
2. **Decorate the Star**
 - Let the children decorate their stars with glitter, star stickers, or drawings. They can also write "Follow Jesus" or "Wise Men Seek Him" on the star.
3. **Attach the Star to the Wand**
 - Glue or tape the star to the top of the craft stick or dowel, creating a "Star of Bethlehem Wand." Optional: Tie ribbon around the stick for extra decoration.
4. **Practice Following the Star**
 - Play a fun game where children take turns leading their friends by holding the star, just like the wise men followed the star to Jesus. Talk about how we can follow Jesus in our daily lives.

Closing Activity: Seek and Find Game (5 minutes)

- Hide a small baby Jesus figurine or picture somewhere in the room. Let the children "follow the star" to find Jesus.
- As they search, talk about how the wise men searched for Jesus and how we can seek Him too.

Closing Prayer:

"Dear God, thank You for leading the wise men to find Jesus. Help us to always seek You and follow Your guidance in our lives. We are so thankful that You sent Jesus to be our Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen."