

A Family Devotion for December 27, 2009

Wise Men Worship the King of the Jews

Matthew 2:1-12

Getting Started: Explain to your family that today is a special day because today you will be having “church” at home. No need to take a shower or even get out of your pajamas! Take out your Bible, have everyone find a comfortable place to sit, turn off all electronic devices, and tune in to hear God’s Word.

As a family discuss the following questions:

- Do we need a “church” to worship God? Why or why not?
- How do you think God feels when we take time to worship Him?
- Can you think of any scripture that supports worshipping in places other than a church?
- List all the places you can experience God.

Prayer: Hold hands and pray together. You can use your own words or the prayer written below. One person can pray or everyone in your family can take turns praying.

Father God, thank you for joining us here today. Please bless this time and make it fruitful for You. Thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for keeping your promise to send a Savior to us. Please give each of us a desire to know You better. Reveal Yourself to us as we read from the Bible. Bring the true words of the Bible to life for us today. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen!

Lesson: Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, but it is just the beginning of the story for us. God promised a Savior to His people, and Jesus fulfills the promise. God always keeps His promises.

Open your Bible to the New Testament book of Matthew, and read Matthew 2:1-12. If everyone in your family can read, give each family member 2 or 3 verses to read aloud. Let your youngest family member begin the reading and progress until the oldest person reads last. If you have family members who can’t read, let those that can take turns reading the scripture verses. Make sure your small children are close by; explain that the Bible is God’s special book to help us know Him and His plans for our life. Remind them that everything written in it is true and sent to them with love directly from God.

As each person reads, stop and talk about what the Bible verses are saying. Make sure that everyone understands what the passage says before moving ahead.

After reading the passage discuss the following questions. If all members of your family are readers, challenge yourselves to say what Bible verse they found the answer in. You can assign questions to family members or have a discussion using the questions.

1. Where was Jesus born? (*In Bethlehem, Matthew 2:1*)
2. Who was King of Judea at the time of Jesus birth? (*King Herod, Matthew 2:1*)

3. Who were the Wise Men looking for? (*The King of the Jews, Matthew 2:2*)
4. What did Herod do when he heard about the Wise Men's visit? (*He called together the chief priests and teachers of the law. Matthew 2:4*)
5. Did the chief priests know where Christ was to be born? (*Yes, and they even knew the Old Testament scripture, Micah 2:5, to back up their claim. Matthew 2:6*)
6. What did Herod tell the Wise Men to do when they found Jesus? (*Come and tell him. Matthew 2:8*)
7. How did the Wise Men find Jesus? (*They followed the star. Matthew 2:9-10*)
8. What gifts did the Wise Men give Jesus? (*Gold, incense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11*)
9. Did the Wise Men return to Herod as he requested? Why or why not? (*No, they were warned in a dream not to return. Matthew 2:12*)

Discuss the Meaning: Use the following questions to talk more about the passage, its meaning, and how we can apply it in our lives. Make sure that each person understands the question, and make sure that each person participates in talking about what the Bible passage means.

- What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
- If you were telling a friend about the Wise Men, what would you tell them? How would you describe them?
- How did the Wise Men respond when they faced obstacles in their quest to worship Jesus? What do you think caused that?
- What can we learn from the Wise Men?
- Where can you find Jesus today?
- After hearing the story about the Wise Men's amazing search, how could you search for Jesus in your life?
- How can we keep seeking Jesus in our lives?
- Talk about your search for Jesus, when did it begin? How has it been? Where are you now?
- Does knowing Jesus change your life? Why or why not?

Sing: Sing at least one verse of "O Come All Ye Faithful" together. Even if you don't think you are a very good singer, use the words of this song to worship Christ and seek Him like the Wise Men did. If you have a recording that you'd like to sing along to, feel free to use it.

*O Come All Ye Faithful
 Joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
 Come and behold Him,
 Born the King of Angels;
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 Christ the Lord.*

*Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

*Yea! Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus! To Thee be glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

Pray: Have someone close your time with prayer. Pray however you would like, or use the prayer below.

Thank you God for joining us here this morning. Please bless our family. Remind us daily to remember You. Help us to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.