God’s Big Story: Epiphany

|  |
| --- |
| scripture focus |
| Matthew 2:1-12 |

big picture

Epiphany is the celebration of the visit made by the Wise Men, or Magi, to the baby King Jesus. There is still so much mystery surrounding this Bible passage. We don’t know exactly who these men were, how many there were, where specifically they came from, or how they changed after meeting Jesus. But we do know that even though they were foreigners and non-Jews, they were some of the first to know about Jesus’ coming and respond to him with worship. God’s promise to Abraham to “bless all nations” through his descendants was coming true. And just as Abraham left his home and family to follow God into the unknown, the Magi left their own land to follow a strange new star to an unknown King. They remind us, again, that God sometimes calls us into new and unknown places and situations.

|  | storybooks | bible readings |
| --- | --- | --- |
| read aloud | *Jesus Storybook Bible:* “The King of all Kings”, pp. 192-199 | Matthew 2:1-12 |
| discuss/ ask | Do you think the wise men were ever scared or discouraged on their journey? What kept them going? What keeps you going when you’re scared or discouraged or can’t see what’s ahead or what’s going to happen? What is a promise that you can hold onto?What kind of king do you think the Wise Men expected to find? How was King Jesus different from King Herod? Do you think the Wise Men were disappointed in baby King Jesus when they finally found him? Why or why not? The wise men came from far away, from a land and culture and religion completely different from Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when the wise men arrived? What kind of person would you be surprised to find at your door, bearing gifts for you? Why do you think God chose these strange men from far away to be some of the first to know about Jesus’ birth?If you were a Magi, what gift would you give to Jesus? |
| do together | There are many wonderful and fun traditions to celebrate Epiphany. You can make crowns and “become” Magi, bearing gifts for the baby King; make Epiphany stars; or make a “King Cake” with a small figure of the Baby Jesus inside. If you have the essential oil frankincense, bring it out to smell. And don’t forget to sing “We Three Kings”!One lovely Epiphany tradition for families is “chalking the door” as a reminder of the Magi’s welcome of Jesus, and an invitation for Jesus to bless your house and your family in the new year. See [this resource](https://buildfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Epiphany-at-Home-2021.pdf) for more information. |