



*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

December 28, 2014

First Sunday of Christmas
Narrative Lectionary

Matthew 2:1-12



Seeking the Saviour. *Object:* A map.

If we were planning to go to visit someone in another town or city, we might first ask someone who knew how to get there to give us directions. They might give us some general directions and suggest the best roads to take. Another thing we should do is look at a map. The map will show us exactly how to get where we want to go. As we travel, we should keep checking the map to be sure that we are headed in the right direction. If we follow the directions that we receive and use the map to guide us, we will surely find the way.

After Jesus was born, some wise men, also called Magi, saw a star in the sky which they believed announced the birth of a king. They traveled to Jerusalem and began to ask, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

Herod heard about the Magi and their search for a king and he was deeply disturbed. He called a meeting of the priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" The priests told Herod that the prophet Micah had written that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. So Herod called for private meeting with the wise men and said to them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

As you know, the wise men did not have a map to guide them to Bethlehem, but they had something even better -- they had a star to guide them. So the wise men followed information that the priests had given to Herod and the star that God had given to guide them and it led them right to Jesus. When they found him, they gave him gifts and bowed down and worshiped him.

Wise men, women, boys, and girls are still searching for Jesus. There are people who want to help -- people like pastors and Sunday School teachers. There is no map to help us find Jesus and there is no star to follow, but we do have the Bible. We can find the way to Jesus by reading God's Holy Word! The Bible is the map and star that will lead to Jesus. All of us should read it every day to make sure we are headed in the right direction!

Dear Jesus, we seek you today because we want to worship you and crown you as our King. We are thankful for pastors and Sunday School teachers who want to help us and we are thankful for the Bible which we have been given to lead us to you. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia (Col. 3:15, 16)

Word Search Puzzle

Y W A Y L X P H C H H M Q D H
 K N N T Y I G R Q V O E G M B
 W I U A W C N N I R U W R Y R
 O V N R T E A C H E R S R O G
 R W Q G X T R V E K S A O M D
 S O M C H R I S T N M T E K E
 H R O V B G H V L M S H S O H
 I S T Y L O O U G I E E H C Q
 P H H U A D U O B L E B R Y J
 E I E Y Z V S E H N M A G I D
 D P R O N Y E T V A E G H L Q
 G B O R N H E E A S T R I B T
 T P B K F B G A V E R H W C E
 P M W I C I N E J Y C S T A R
 M M B Q D D L V M V T X L X Y

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|-----------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|
| PRIESTS | MYRRH | BETHLEHEM | KING | CHRIST |
| GOD | CHILD | HOUSE | INCENSE | MARY |
| STAR | MAGI | TEACHERS | WORSHIP | MOTHER |
| WORSHIPED | EAST | SEARCH | BORN | HEROD |

STARS & CROWNS BIBLE VERSE HUNT: Have children HUNT to find the stars and crowns with words from our Bible verse today that the children can FIND and then bring back and put in order on a large poster board. Hang the Bible verse poster on the wall for children to read and memorize. Making the Bible verse on both stars and crowns will make a fun and interesting poster for the children! (Bible verse could be shortened to "We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him, Matthew 1:2).

WORSHIP CROWN: Have children cut out a copy of a crown and write WORSHIP THE KING with Matthew 1:1-2 written underneath those words. Children can wear their crown while studying the Bible story. Decorate the edges of the crown with many colorful stars stickers!!!

STAR ART: Give each child a BIG poster board yellow STAR cut out (or children can cut it out if time allows) and have them trace, draw or glue on typed out words for WISE MEN STILL SEEK THE SAVIOR! Hole punch the top and give children a ribbon to hang their star at home! One of the big STARS could be hung in the classroom or on the SS classroom door.

WISE MEN WORSHIP JESUS

MATTHEW 2

