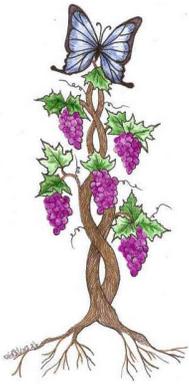


*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*



January 6, 2019

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
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."

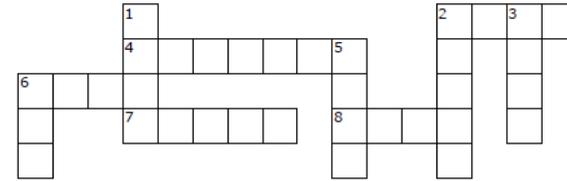
Herod heard about the Magi and their search for a king and he was deeply disturbed. He called a meeting of the priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" The priests told Herod that the prophet Micah had written that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. 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 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 and your church family. 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 know that you are our Lord. We are thankful for pastors and Sunday School teachers and our whole church family who want to help us and we are thankful for the Bible which we have been given to lead us to you. Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2. The wise men who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born
- 4. A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell
- 6. To come into existence by birth
- 7. Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them
- 8. A twinkling point of light in the night sky

DOWN

- 1. A male ruler of a country
- 2. A sticky substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume
- 3. A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery
- 5. The direction which is opposite to west
- 6. To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect

| | | | | |
|-------|------|------|-------|---------|
| MAGI | BOW | STAR | GOLD | KING |
| GIFTS | EAST | BORN | MYRRH | INCENSE |

Activity: Give each child a BIG poster board yellow STAR cut out and have them decorate it with glitter. Hole punch the top and give children a ribbon to hang their star at home.

Discussion Question: It took the Magi a very long time to travel to find the baby Jesus. Talk about the last time you took a long journey. How was that for you?

Family Table Prayer for January: Thank you God for all things new. For the morning and night time, too. Thank you for this food so yummy and the healthy ways you fill our tummy. Amen.

January Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

