

# Christmas 1A (Epiphany observed): Kings from Far Away Visit Jesus

## Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*Storyteller: ...Pick up Jesus and place him in a manger.*

Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

*Pick up Mary and Joseph and place them near the manger with the baby Jesus.*

His mother's name was Mary, her husband's name was Joseph.

*Move the wise men along the road towards the stable.*

After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east asked King Herod where they might find the baby who was born to be "King of the Jews"

*Hold up the star above the stable and then continue, moving the three wise men along the road to stand in front of the stable.*

They had seen his "star" and followed it to Jerusalem.

*Move the wise men to give their three gifts to the baby Jesus one at a time.* When they found Jesus in Bethlehem, the wise men gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh

*Move the wise men to journey back home:* But they went home by a different way that did not pass King Herod.

*Use a hand gesture to point to King Herod:* When King Herod heard that the wise men had found a new king in Bethlehem, he was very angry. He sent his soldiers to find Jesus in Bethlehem.

*Move Joseph and gather Mary and Jesus and set them on the road:* God sent an angel in a dream, to warn Joseph that the soldiers were searching for Jesus. So that night Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt. They stayed there until it was safe for them to go back home to Nazareth.

## Story Materials

- 3D (Nativity Set) figures of:
  - infant Jesus,
  - Mary and Joseph
  - Wise men with gifts,
  - an angel
- Long brown strip of road,
- Desert coloured base
- A large Star