

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is the King We Worship

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2

GOD'S BIG STORY: Guided by a star, wise men from eastern lands come to Jerusalem seeking Jesus, the King we worship. A lying King Herod attempts to trick them, but fails.

WORD OF WONDER: A child will be born. He will be the Prince of Peace. —from Isaiah 9:6

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: O Come (All Ye Faithful), Go Tell it on the Mountain
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



[Waiting for the King Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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We all worship something, whether we realize it or not. People must order their lives around something. Maybe it's the God revealed in Scripture, or maybe it's one of the many counterfeit gods vying for our attention. The god of comfort. The god of success. The god of wealth. Who do you worship? What do you give your allegiance to?

Read Matthew 2:1–12. In the story of the magi, the wise men are faced with a choice: to obey Herod or listen to God. God had led them to Jesus, who had come not only as the king of the Jews, but also as the everlasting King who would bring salvation to the ends of the earth. After these travelers from a foreign land found Jesus, they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they listened to God and returned home without yielding to Herod's request. They made their choice.

Every day, we too have choices to make. The rightful King of all creation has been revealed to us, and every other kingdom will someday give way to His Kingdom. Jesus is the King we worship, but counterfeits desperately jostle for our attention. So, what do you give your attention to? Does it point you to Jesus or obscure your vision? Every day is an opportunity to follow Jesus with your whole heart. Come, let us worship the King.

—**Michael Rade**

Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher
Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The magi, or wise men, were astrologers who interpreted the appearance of stars and other astronomical objects. These men played an important part in the court life of various Mesopotamian kingdoms, served as advisers to kings, and were believed by some in the early church to be royalty themselves.

WHAT?

After Jesus' birth, magi from the east came to worship Jesus and bring Him gifts. They followed a star that had risen in the sky. King Herod tried to trick the magi into telling him the location of Jesus. God warned them not to return to Herod.

WHERE?

The magi traveled from Mesopotamia, from what is most likely present-day Iraq. Depending on their route, they may have traversed up to 900 miles. It would have taken several months. They arrived in Jerusalem and then traveled to Bethlehem, which was about five miles south of Jerusalem.

WHEN?

Jesus was born before King Herod died in 4 BC. The magi arrived at least several months after Jesus was born. Herod was still alive at this point. Shortly after the magi's visit, Jesus' family had to relocate to Egypt until Herod's death.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

The visit of the magi foreshadows the inclusion of Gentiles in God's kingdom and makes sense of Daniel's vision in which people of all nations worship the everlasting King. The kingdom of God is made up of persons from every tribe, language, people, and nation.



LESSON 5 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Hi, Tac, good to see you!

Tac the Cat: Hi, kids! I just got this really cool telescope that I'm loving! I have been watching the stars at night and they're so cool to see through the telescope.

Leader: That sounds fun! Kids, have any of you looked through a telescope before? Have you looked at the stars? *(Allow kids to respond.)*

Tac the Cat: That's great! It's cool, isn't it? I'm very curious though.

Leader: What are you curious about?

Tac the Cat: Last night, I saw a shooting star! I have so many questions about stars! What makes the star move? What are stars made of? How do they stay in the sky? Do they just hang there?

Leader: That's a lot of questions. It's good to be curious! I wish I had all the answers. I do know that stars are pretty to look at in the night sky.

Tac the Cat: I have more questions! How many stars are there? How big are they? What do they look like up close? Who made the stars and put them in the sky?

Leader: I don't know the answers to all those questions, but I do know the answer to the last one. God made the stars and placed them in the sky!

Tac the Cat: That's right! I'll have to look for the answers to my other questions.

Leader: All this talk about stars reminds me of a story found in the Bible that has a star in it.

Tac the Cat: I would love to hear the story, but I'm just so curious now that I have to go study more about the stars. I want to learn more about them!

Leader: That's great, Tac. Have fun learning about stars!

Tac the Cat: I will. And kids, I know you'll enjoy the story with the star in it!

Leader: See you next time, Tac.

Tac the Cat: Bye!

"I bet we have all been curious about something. Let's take a moment and think: Have you ever stopped to think about God creating the stars in the sky? Allow the kids to respond. Have you ever stopped to think that God can use anything to lead people, even stars? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. We'll learn today how God used a star to lead people to Jesus, and how they worshiped Him.

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS IS THE KING WE WORSHIP**. Today we'll discover how Jesus is the King we worship."

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

"Let's say these words together."

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

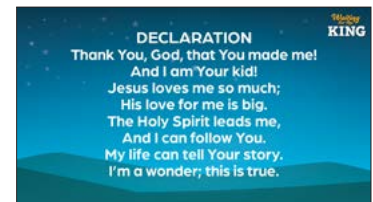
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **Dear God, thank You for bringing each kid here today. We want to celebrate You and learn about You because You are our King. Help us hear from You and worship You! May Your Holy Spirit help us listen and learn from Your Word today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today we'll learn about how Jesus is the King we worship. Let's sing about King Jesus and worship Him together!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: O Come (All Ye Faithful), Go Tell it on the Mountain

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Matthew in the Bible, which is the first book of the New Testament. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Matthew in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only), paper, gift boxes or bags (7), compass or map, toy crown, party supplies (such as a party blower or party hat), fake gold coins, light-colored rocks, dark-colored rocks, marker, tape, wrapping paper or gift bags and tissue paper (optional)

Ahead of time, cut out a paper star shape. Place the supplies listed below into gift boxes and use a marker to number each box.

1. Compass or map
2. Paper star
3. Toy crown
4. Party supply
5. Fake gold coins
6. Light-colored rocks (to represent frankincense)
7. Dark-colored rocks (to represent myrrh)

Place the boxes in order nearby.

"God's people waited for a long time for God to send the promised King who would be in charge forever. It happened! Jesus was born! After Jesus' birth, wise men came from far away to find the King. They came to worship Him. Open box #1. Hold up the compass or map.

These wise men were called magi—people who watched the stars in the sky. They traveled to a city called Jerusalem because they saw a bright star in the sky. The magi knew the great King had been born. Who put that star in the sky? Was God trying to tell the magi something? Open box #2. Show the star.

In Jerusalem, the magi asked people, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of God's people? We saw His star in the sky. Now we have come to worship Him" (Matthew 2:2). When Herod heard this, he was upset. Herod was the king of Judea. Herod did not want anyone to worship a different king. Open box #3. Display the crown.

He was mad. Herod made a plan and secretly called for the magi and asked when the star had appeared. Then Herod said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report it to me. Then I can go and worship him too" (Matthew 2:8). But Herod did not tell the magi the truth. Herod did not want to worship Jesus. He wanted to hurt Jesus. God told the magi not to tell Herod where Jesus was.

The magi followed the star until it stopped over a house in Bethlehem. God showed them the way! The magi were joyful and excited. They went to the house and saw Jesus with His mother.

The magi knew that Jesus was born to be a great King, so they bowed down and worshiped Him. Open box #4. Hold up the party supply.

The magi gave Jesus gifts. “They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh” (Matthew 2:11). The magi gave Jesus these shiny and sweet-smelling gifts to show Jesus how special they thought He was. They were fancy gifts like those you would give to a king. Let the kids help you open the last three boxes and pass around the items that represent gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Jesus is not just any king. He’s the everlasting King sent by God—the One people all over the earth will worship. Jesus was King that day in Bethlehem, He’s King today, and He’ll be King forever. Jesus is the King we worship.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS IS THE KING WE WORSHIP!** Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

The wise men were not from Israel but were from far away. Hundreds of years before, Daniel had a dream where people from all over the world worshiped the everlasting King. The wise men—who were from a faraway nation—came to Bethlehem to worship Jesus, the everlasting King! God’s kingdom is made of people from every nation and language!"

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for sending Jesus to be our King. Use your own words. Here is an example:

God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our King. We worship You and praise You. You’re amazing! We love You so much. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: May Jesus, the King you worship, hold you close, shape your heart, and guide your path. Know you are loved by your King, and know that He wants your love and worship too.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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