**Epiphany**

Resources and ideas to explore with home, school and church.

**Epiphany – 6th January**

Epiphany, may also be known as Three Kings Day, celebrated on January 6th, and is when we remember the wise men’s arrival in Bethlehem. The three kings, or three wise men, or three magi, terms used interchangeable, brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus. It is a time to acknowledge that baby Jesus was the Son of God, the Saviour, Messiah, and one true King.

Watch this video The Wise Men or read Matthew 2: 1-12

Clip - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaFv7hCSQjw>

**Bible Text**

**Matthew 2: 1-12**

**The Beginner’s Bible**

**The Bright Star and Three Visitors**

When Jesus was born, God put a special star in the sky. Some Wise Men who lived far away saw this star. They knew it was a sign from God that a new king had been born. The Wise Men followed the star. On their way, they stopped in the city of Jerusalem to see King Herod. The Wise Men wanted to ask him about the baby king. Now Herod, was a mean king. He tried to trick the Wise Men. “You must find him for me so I can worship him, too.” he said. The star led the Wise Men to Bethlehem. They found little Jesus. They worshipped him and gave him gifts fit for a king: gold and sweet-smelling spices. An angel appeared to the Wise Men in a dream. He warned them, “Do not go back to King Herod.” So the Wise Men went home on a different road.

# International Children’s Bible

**The Magi Visit the Messiah**

**2**After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew2:1-12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23171a)] from the east came to Jerusalem **2**and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

**3**When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4**When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **5**“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

**6**“‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
    are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
    who will shepherd my people Israel.’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew2:1-12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23176b)]”

**7**Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8**He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

**9**After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10**When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11**On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **12**And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised**

**The Visit of the Wise Men**

**2**In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew2%3A1-12&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-23171a)] from the East came to Jerusalem, **2**asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew2%3A1-12&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-23172b)] and have come to pay him homage.’ **3**When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; **4**and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew2%3A1-12&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-23174c)] was to be born. **5**They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

**6**“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[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew2%3A1-12&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-23176d)] my people Israel.”’

**7**Then Herod secretly called for the wise men[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew2%3A1-12&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-23177e)] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8**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.’ **9**When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew2%3A1-12&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-23179f)] until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10**When they saw that the star had stopped,[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew2%3A1-12&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-23180g)] they were overwhelmed with joy. **11**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. **12**And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Exploration through creativity**

**Epiphany crafts for children**

**0-5**

Make a star. Using a template cut out a star shape and let the children colour or decorate with tissue paper or shiny paper. Make a hole in the top and thread some ribbon through. Hang the star up or on the tree to remind you that the wise men followed the star. Follow the ideas below to make another star. https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/handprint-star https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/lolly-stick-star https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/window-star-craft

**5-7 years**

Make the wise men who followed the star and found Jesus. <https://www.gluedtomycraftsblog.com/2016/03/popsicle-stick-kings-kid-craft.html>

**7-11 years**

Cut star shapes from card then ask everyone in the family or group draw or

write how they will follow God in their lives over the next week, or write a

prayer inspired by the story of the wise men. These can then go on your tree.

Look at the link below to see how Epiphany is celebrated all around the world.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/42565054>

**Reflection / Spiritual development**

Opportunity to explore through a time of reflection or prayer.

Christians sometimes talk about what they would give to Jesus. This often refers to time, actions in helping others, thinking about how resources are used and giving to others.

Play the final verse of the carol ‘In the Bleak Midwinter’ by Christina Rosetti a nineteenth century artist and poet. Ask children to reflect and decide how they could respond.

**Epiphany Prayer**

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of the Wise men who brought gifts to Jesus.

Thank you for the star that guided them on the journey.

Help us to be guided as we show love to other people.

Help us to be generous with our time and actions.

Amen

**Action Prayer for Epiphany**

Lord, Jesus,

The Wise Men gave you gold;

They knew you were a king.

(Put hands on heads pointing upwards to make a crown.)

The Wise Men gave you incense;

They knew you were God.

(Raise hands and look up.)

The Wise Men gave you myrrh;

They knew you would die.

(Stretch out arms to make a cross shape.)

We give you ourselves.

We know you love us.

(Cross arms over chest to hug yourself.)

The Wise Men followed the light of a star

to find you in Bethlehem.

Help us to follow your light

so that we can live as children of God.

Amen

(Bath & Wells, UK)

**Links to other resources for further use**

[**https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources/celebration-of-the-word-primary/epiphany-resources**](https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources/celebration-of-the-word-primary/epiphany-resources)