

Lesson Name: The Wise Men

Opening Prayer:

While lighting the service candle.

The Light and Peace of Jesus Christ is with us. *Thanks be to God.*

Scripture Lesson:

Matthew 2:1-2--In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking "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.

Story:

Spread out the felt underlayment and place the card on it.

This is the card of the wise men. On the fourth Sunday in Advent we remember the three kings, the Magi, the wise men. They came from far in the East, and they were so wise that people thought they were magic. In fact we get our word "magic" from the name they were called in their own language, "the Magi".

Of all the things they knew, they knew the most about the stars. They knew where each star was supposed to be at each time of year, so they could tell people when it was time to plant their crops or take a trip on the ocean, or cross the high mountain passes when the snow wasn't too deep.

Suddenly they saw a wild star. It was not on any of their star maps. It went where it wanted to go. It did not stay put. They decided to follow the wild star to see where it was going and what it wanted to show them.

They followed the star all the way to Bethlehem, but they came from so far away that they got there after the baby was born. They are always late it seems. Every year they are late. They usually don't arrive until January 6th, but we remember them anyway because, like us they too are on the way to Bethlehem.

Light the candles as appropriate for this week.

Advent I – This is the candle of the prophets.

Advent II – This is the candle of the Holy Family.

Advent III – This is the candle of the Shepherds. (rose candle)

Advent IV – This is the candle of the Wise Men.

After lighting the candles take a moment to enjoy them.

Let's enjoy the light.

Now I am going to change the light.

Blow out the candles.

Look. It is spreading out to fill up the room. As it spreads out, it gets thinner and thinner until you can't see it at all. That doesn't mean that it's gone. It only means that you can't see it. You can still feel the Christmas light. It is filling up the room with the prophets, the Holy Family, the shepherds and the three kings. Anywhere you go, you can come close to them.

Hymn: #128 "We three kings"

Lord's Prayer:

The Lord Be with You. *And also with you.* Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

Most Wonderful God, you have created us to spend our lives searching for you. Thank you for the gifts you have given each of us to carry along the way. Help us to know how to share these gifts to bless others, and help us to find you as we give. *Amen.*