

A Wise Man's Story - Matthew 2 1-12



Hi everyone, My name is Melchior and I'm going to tell you my story.

One night, something amazing happened. It was around the time that Jesus was born, although we didn't know that then. Anyway, we were studying the stars, as we always did, when I saw a particularly bright star.

"Wow!" I said pointing to the star, "That star is much brighter than anything I've ever seen before."

"Wow," said my friends.

We looked at each other, we looked at the star, we looked at each other again. We couldn't stop smiling, we knew that something extraordinary had happened. This was a very special star.

Caspar said, "It's a new star, that means something amazing has happened"

"Yes" said Balthazar, "It means that a new King will be born. He will be the King of the Jews."

We were so excited, we didn't stop to think. We gathered together our things, not forgetting our telescopes and our manuscripts with the star charts and we set off on our camels to find the new King. We did pack some special gifts too. Gifts that were fit for a King, gold, frankincense and myrrh.



Here we are setting off on our journey.

It was a very, very, long journey.

We travelled ...**on ...and on.... and on....**

...for **days**

...for **months**

...maybe even for a **year or more!**

It was a very long journey!

We carried on following the star until eventually we arrived in Jerusalem.

"Why don't we go and ask King Herod if he knows where the new King was born?" Balthazar said.

That seemed like a good idea so we went to see King Herod. He asked the priests and teachers of the law where the Christ would be born and they explained that the prophecies said he would come from Bethlehem.



Here we are talking to King Herod and if you look carefully you can see two of the priests and teachers in the background. One of them is holding a special scroll.

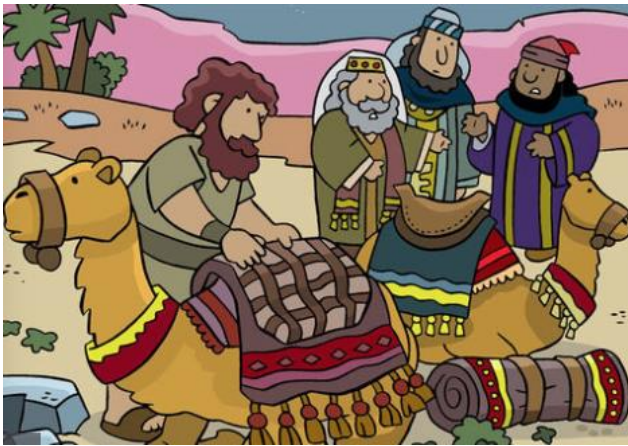
Then King Herod asked us exactly what time the star had appeared. He said, "Go and look for the child and when you find him come and tell me. Then I can go and worship him too."

We left his palace and followed the star to Bethlehem until it stopped above the place where the child was. We stopped, we looked at each other, we were so excited and so happy. After all that travelling we had finally arrived and now we were going to see the new King. So we went up to the house, knocked on the door and went inside. There they were, the child, Jesus, with his mother Mary. We bowed down and worshipped Him and they opened our gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It was amazing!



We were so pleased to finally see the new King. Can you remember what our three gifts were?

Wow, even now, when I think back to that time after all these years, I remember what a wonderful experience it was. But, my story hasn't quite finished yet! The next morning when we were packing up and getting ready to go back home, Balthazar said, "Last night I had a dream and God said that we should not go back to Jerusalem and tell King Herod because he is plotting to kill Jesus." So we went home a different way.

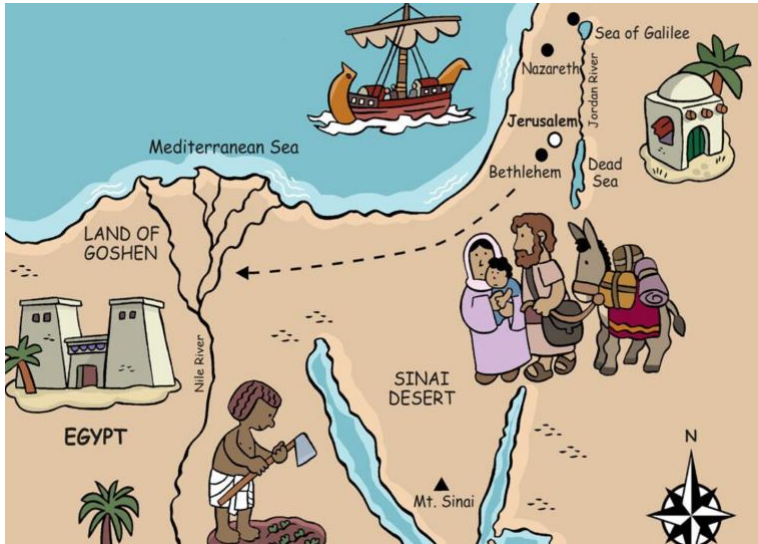


Here we are packing up to go. We knew now that we mustn't go back to see King Herod so we left at

night and avoided Jerusalem.



So, that's nearly the end of my story but it's still isn't quite finished! We heard later that after we had left, God sent an angel in a dream to Joseph to warn him that he and Mary and Jesus must leave Bethlehem and go to Egypt because King Herod wanted to kill Jesus.



This map shows Bethlehem and where they had to go to Egypt. It also shows Nazareth, where Jesus grew up. Can you find it?

But, even then the story wasn't quite finished, because some time later, when King Herod died, we heard that again God had sent an angel to Joseph in a dream, this time to tell them they could now return to Israel and go and live in Nazareth in Galilee because the people trying to kill Jesus were now dead....
... **and that** really is the end of my story.

Of course this isn't the end of the story of Jesus but you'll have to wait for the next exciting part of **His** story!

Have you still been counting angels? Why don't you make a list of all the times angels have appeared in the stories and see how many you can remember? You can look them up in Mary's Story, Joseph's Story and the Shepherd's Story as well as this one, The Wise Man's Story.

There is a list of the angel appearances at the end of this PDF after the activity sheets.

In today's story God was constantly guiding the way. He sent angels as messengers, he sent a star to guide the wise men. All the time he was working out his plan. God can guide us too in lots of different ways. Can you think of any ways God can guide you?

Here are some I thought of:

- through reading the Bible
- through other people
- talking to us when we listen
- maybe through our dreams

Verse

God showed the wise men the way with a bright star to lead them and also he told them what to do in a dream This verse tells us that God's word, the Bible, is one of the ways that God can guide us and that it's like a light showing us the way.

'Your word is like a lamp for my feet and a light for my way'

Psalm 119:105

Prayer



Dear God.

Thank you that you love and care for us.

Thank you that you have plans for us.

Thank you that you are always with us.

Thank you that you are our guide and you show us the way.

Help us to listen to what you say

Help us be obedient to you just like the wise men,

Help us to be willing to do what you want us to do.

Amen

Links

Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk1LhngROCM> Saddleback Kids - (3½mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22SMUUMsx0o>

Saddleback Kids - (1½mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvAxd0crz-c>

Jesus and Kidz.com - Pictures with story read by a child (1½mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGmeh6CmDpE>

Guthrie Pictures - Journey of the wise men (10mins)

A dad telling the story to his children and his children acting out the story.

Activities - How to draw

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pamQepfPMME>

'How to draw the Three Wise Men'

You can also find

How to draw Mary and Joseph

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKewi7iZ-e_vXtAhXTZxUIHQvVCBOQFjABegQICxAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D0r_GWyjSYkA&usq=AOvVaw2aBt2SEzC7UQYxWU_LVTDu

....and also on the 'Art for Kids Hub' search for....

'How to draw baby Jesus'

'How to draw Shepherds' and

'How to draw an Angel'



The Three Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12





The wise men followed
the star to where Jesus
was staying.



**The wise men worshiped
Jesus.**

Wise Men Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be right to left, up and down or diagonally.

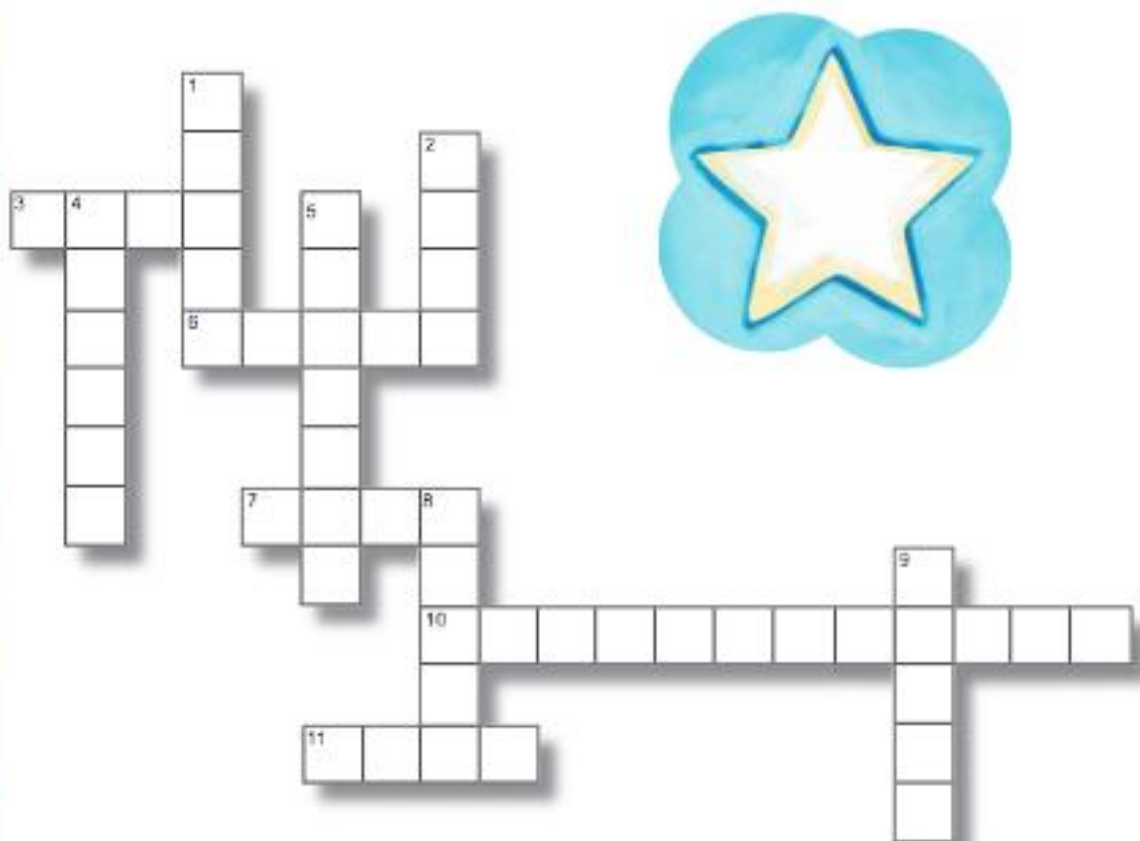
M Y R R H R B Z U N N T P A J
W R U H G G C E S T A R A Q E
R Z A C Z Q O G T E E W X X S
J P G Y W K Z X L H I W E H U
H M H O R W I L T O L E T J S
G O L D D S C N C R Z E W E M
B L N J S T T J G S K T H B K
X E F C H A B I E H Q R B E N
C H E R O D B T E I J A R S M
C O R Q P W R G J P E V E X Y
T A T F R A N K I N C E N S E
W O R S H I P B D E O L Y B B
I U G P O U H I L P Y U J C A
S R R Q S A I U I A M B M Z S
E S D R C G I F T S E Z P A Q

BETHLEHEM
FRANKINCENSE
GIFTS
GOLD

HEROD
KING
JESUS
MYRRH

STAR
TRAVEL
WISE
WORSHIP

Wise Men Crossword Puzzle



Across

3. It guided the wise Men.
6. The ruler of Judea when Jesus was born
7. A monarch or ruler
10. One of the wise men's gifts
11. Full of knowledge or experience

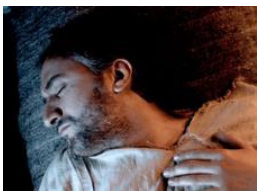
Down

1. The wise men gave Jesus this.
2. Another gift to Jesus
4. Journey to a different place
5. Praise or adore
8. The wise men gave three _____ to Jesus.
9. The wise men went to Bethlehem to see the Baby _____.

List of angels in the Christmas Stories - How many did you find?



Angel Gabriel told Mary she would have a baby.



An angel told Joseph to marry Mary in a dream.



An angel appeared to the shepherds and told them that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem and that they should go and see him.



Lots more angels appeared to the shepherds.



The wise men were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod because he wanted to kill Jesus.



An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt.



After Herod died an angel came to Joseph again in a dream and told him it was safe to go back to Israel. They went to live in Nazareth where Jesus grew up.