

Lesson 22: God Protects Jesus from the King

Activities

- Music and Craft Project: The Gifts of the Wise Men
- Art History Project: Botticelli's *Adoration of the Magi*
- Optional Craft Project: Decorate a Gift Bag
- Game Activity: Follow the Star
- Craft Project: Make a Star
- Memory Work: Review the Books of the New Testament
- Coloring Page: The Magi Come to See Jesus

Music and Craft Project

.....

The Gifts of the Wise Men

The gifts of the wise men foretold who Jesus would be and what would happen to him. Read the description of each gift and then listen to the verse from the American Christmas carol "We Three Kings of Orient Are," written by Rev. John Henry Hopkins in 1857. Then make a simple version of each gift.

Materials

- Audio recording of "We Three Kings of Orient Are"
- 5 oz. tub of play dough, any color (or make salt dough from the recipe in the Lesson 7 activities)
- Gold glitter
- Wax paper
- Baby powder
- Scented lotion

Directions

- 1 Play the song "We Three Kings of Orient Are." Remind the student that we don't know exactly how many magi there were, but many people think there were three because they brought three presents to Jesus. Lyrics can be found at www.carols.org.uk/we_three_kings_of_orient_are.htm. Encourage the student to sing along with the chorus.

- 2 Read the following description and verse to the student as he sculpts a small bowl out of the play dough (the size of an Oreo cookie). Then he should roll out a few small balls (the size of M&Ms). Sprinkle some gold glitter on a sheet of wax paper and roll the balls in the glitter until they are coated. Place the “gold” in the play-dough bowl.

Gold: A Gift for a King

Gold has always been precious and valuable. Because of this, gold was a gift fit for a king. Jesus is the King of Kings. “Jesus Christ, who is . . . the ruler of the kings of the earth.” (Revelation 1:5)

Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain
Gold I bring to crown him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign

- 3 Read the following description and verse to the student as he sculpts another small bowl. Then he should sprinkle the baby powder into the bowl (this is the “frankincense”).

Frankincense: A Gift for a Priest

Frankincense comes from the sap of a tree called the Boswellia tree, which grows in Africa and Arabia. Long ago, people found that when they took sap from this tree, dried it, and ground it into powder, the powder could be burned to make a smoke that smelled sweet. Incense was often burned in the temple, because people believed the smoke would carry their prayers to heaven. “The smoke from the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel’s hand.” (Revelation 8:4) The gift of frankincense foretells that Jesus will be the high priest who prays to God for us.

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship him God on high

- 4 Read the following description and verse to the student as he sculpts another small bowl. Fill this bowl with a dab of scented lotion (this is the “myrrh”).

Myrrh: A Gift for a Savior

The word “myrrh” is Arabic for “bitter.” Myrrh comes from the resin of a tree found in North Africa. The Egyptians used myrrh to make perfumes, incense, and ointments. Myrrh ointment was used to preserve dead bodies. The gift of myrrh foretells that Jesus would one day die and be buried. He came back from the dead, though, as you will learn!

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in a stone-cold tomb.

Art History Project

Botticelli's Adoration of the Magi

The scene of the worshipping wise men was a popular subject in Italian Renaissance art. Study the painting of one of the Florentine masters: Sandro Botticelli.

Materials

- Botticelli's *Adoration of the Magi* (see Student Page 233 or find a color version online at www.wga.hu/frames-e.html?/html/b/botticel/21/20adorat.html).

Directions

Show the student the painting on Student Page 233, or the color version you found on the Internet as you say the following. Encourage him to answer the questions in complete sentences.

- 1 Sandro Botticelli was born in Italy more than five hundred years ago. Look at the copy of *Adoration of the Magi*. The word “magi” is Greek for “scholars of magic” or “wise men.” “Adoration” means “worshiping.” These wise men came to worship the baby Jesus, because they knew he was not just any ordinary baby. He had been sent by God. The painting was done for a church in Botticelli’s city and was paid for by some rich people in the town. As a way of saying “Thank you,” Botticelli painted the picture so that some of the people in the scene looked like the important people in his city.
- 2 Find the baby Jesus. Where is he sitting? (In Mary’s lap.)
- 3 His mother is looking down at him. Botticelli painted the picture in such a way that your attention would be drawn to Mary and Jesus.
- 4 Find Mary’s husband Joseph. How is Joseph standing? (He is resting his head in his hand.)
- 5 Do you see the streams of light shining over Jesus? Point to them.
- 6 Where is that light coming from? [*If necessary, give this hint: It comes from the thing that guided the wise men to this spot.*] (The star.)
- 7 Do you see the wise man in a black robe kneeling directly in front of Jesus? He is not dressed like a wise man from that time! He is dressed in clothes from the time of Botticelli. This is Cosimo de’Medici. His sons are also in the painting. One kneels in the center of the painting with the big red cape draped over his back. The other kneeling wise man, facing him as if they are in conversation, may be a Medici son too. Lorenzo the Magnificent, the ruler of Botticelli’s city at the time the painting was created, is in the picture too. You can only see the side of his face. He wears a black mantle with a red stripe.
- 8 The man who paid for the painting, Gaspare del Lama, also made it into the picture. He is hard to spot. Look at the right side of the painting, at the top row of men. Can you find the man with white hair who is looking right at you? His cloak is blue and you can see his hand. Can you tell what he is doing with his hand? (He is pointing at you.)
- 9 There is a man standing at the far right edge who is also looking at you. You can see his whole body—he has blonde hair and a yellow robe. This man is Botticelli, the artist who made this picture! Botticelli painted himself right into this painting.

Optional Craft Project

Decorate a Gift Bag

Materials

- Your copy of Botticelli's *Adoration of the Magi* (see Student Page 233)
- Scissors
- Coloring supplies
- Glue stick
- A gift bag large enough for the Botticelli picture to fit on the bag's front

Directions

- 1 Tear out Student Page 233 (or cut out the color copy you printed from the Internet).
- 2 Have the student color in the black-and-white picture with coloring supplies.
- 3 Have the student use the glue stick to attach the painting to the front of a gift bag.
- 4 Next time you or the student have a gift to give, place it in this bag!

Game Activity

Follow the Star

This is a game about the wise men and King Herod trying to find the baby Jesus. The first half of it is a variation on "Follow the Leader," and the second half is like a competitive scavenger hunt.

Materials

- A star cut out of paper
- Crown (toy crown, or make your own using the template from Lesson 27)
- Baby doll

Directions

- 1 Hide the crown somewhere and don't tell the students where it is. (The crown stands for King Herod who lived in Jerusalem. The wise men went to him first.)
- 2 Hide the baby doll (the baby Jesus) somewhere in the house or outside while everyone closes their eyes.
- 3 Choose someone to be the Star (this person will be the leader for the first part of the game). Without letting anyone else hear, whisper to the Star-person the location of the crown. The Star has the paper star taped to his or her shirt and leads a line of students (the wise men) around the room/house/outside. If the Star steps over something, everyone else in line must too. If the Star crawls instead of walking for a while, or walks in a silly way, everyone else must too.

- 4 The Star should lead everyone to the place where the crown is (using a roundabout path to give time for lots of chances to “do what the Star does”).
- 5 When the crown has been reached, give one student the crown. This student is King Herod.
- 6 Split the students into two teams. Make sure King Herod and the Star are on different teams. Everyone on the Star’s team (except the Star) is a wise man, everyone on King Herod’s team (except King Herod) is one of King Herod’s soldiers.
- 7 Now King Herod and the Star must stand in one place. They can’t move. Have the other students search for the baby doll. If a person sees the doll, he should not pick it up, but should run quickly back to his team captain (Herod or the Star) and touch that captain. Thus he scores a point.
- 8 The doll can be re-hidden in a different place every time a point is scored. The first team to five points wins. The wise men have to go look where the Star tells them, and King Herod’s men have to go look where he/she tells them. Students can take turns being King Herod or the Star.

Craft Project

.....

Make a Star

Here are two sets of instructions for an aluminum foil star or a paper star. The paper star is a little bit simpler to make.

Materials

- Aluminum foil
- Scissors
- Glue

Directions

- 1 Measure and cut eight 3½-inch squares (or eight 7-inch squares if you want something larger to work with) from paper or aluminum foil.
- 2 Fold each square in half. The folded edge should be at the top.
- 3 On each of the folded squares, fold the top left corner down in front. This should make a pocket that is triangle-shaped.
- 4 Fold the bottom right-hand corners up on each shape. You should now have 8 parallelograms. Hold one parallelogram upright with an open pocket at the top. Slide another parallelogram’s triangular corner into that pocket at an angle to the right. Add a drop of glue to secure the two parallelograms together.
- 5 Continue to add parallelograms in the same way, working clockwise until the circle is complete. Allow glue to dry.

Alternate Version Five-point Star in One Snip

You can use foil or paper for this craft.

- 1 Help the student fold an $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10" piece of paper in half, so that the fold line is $8\frac{1}{2}$ " long. (NOTE: Make sure you are NOT using an $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" piece of paper. If $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" is all you have, cut an inch off of the bottom of the sheet of paper.)
- 2 Then, fold in half AGAIN and unfold, both vertically and horizontally. When the student has done this, the paper should still have its initial fold, from step 1, at the top, plus crease lines down the center, both vertically and horizontally.
- 3 Grab the top left corner and fold it down to touch the horizontal center line somewhere in the right half of the paper. Your fold should begin at the vertical center line at the top of the fold from step 1. Press down this fold.
- 4 Take hold of that same corner, and fold it in half back towards the left now, until it meets the left-hand edge. Press down this fold.
- 5 Take the right-hand side of your original rectangle, and fold it tightly over the left-hand triangles so that the fold is along the right edge of the left-side triangle.
- 6 Take the new far-left-hand corner, and fold it towards the right, until it meets the right-hand edge. Press down this fold.
- 7 Cut on the angle illustrated in the picture. Unfold the small piece of paper, and you will find your five-pointed star. (Try again if you haven't gotten it right.)

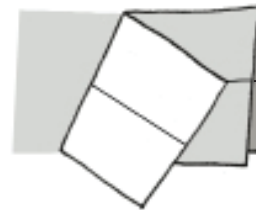
1.



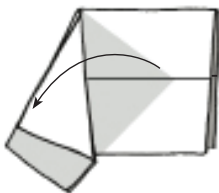
2.



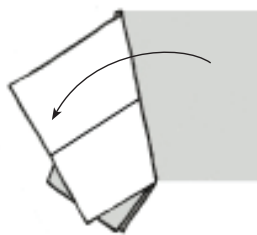
3.



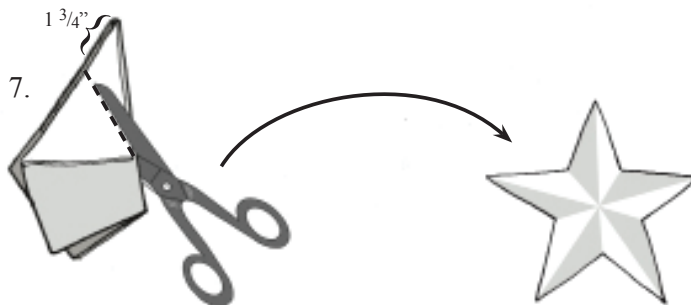
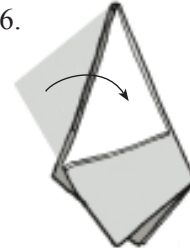
4.



5.



6.



Memory Work

Review the Books of the New Testament

Directions

Say to the student: “You have learned all of the books of the New Testament! Let’s review them all to make sure they stay in your memory. The first five were Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts. Let’s say those together.”

[Together]: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts.

“Then we learned nine more books, the letters that Paul wrote to different groups of people. They were Romans, First and Second Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, First and Second Thessalonians. Let’s say those together.”

[Together]: Romans, First and Second Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, First and Second Thessalonians.

“Then we learned four more books, the letters Paul sent to specific people. Let’s say those together.”

[Together]: First and Second Timothy, Titus, Philemon.

“The last set of books was written to different churches and people as messages by God, by different writers. They were Hebrews, James, First and Second Peter, First, Second, and Third John, Jude, Revelation. Let’s say those names together three times.”

[Together, three times]: Hebrews, James, First and Second Peter, First, Second, and Third John, Jude, Revelation.

Coloring Page

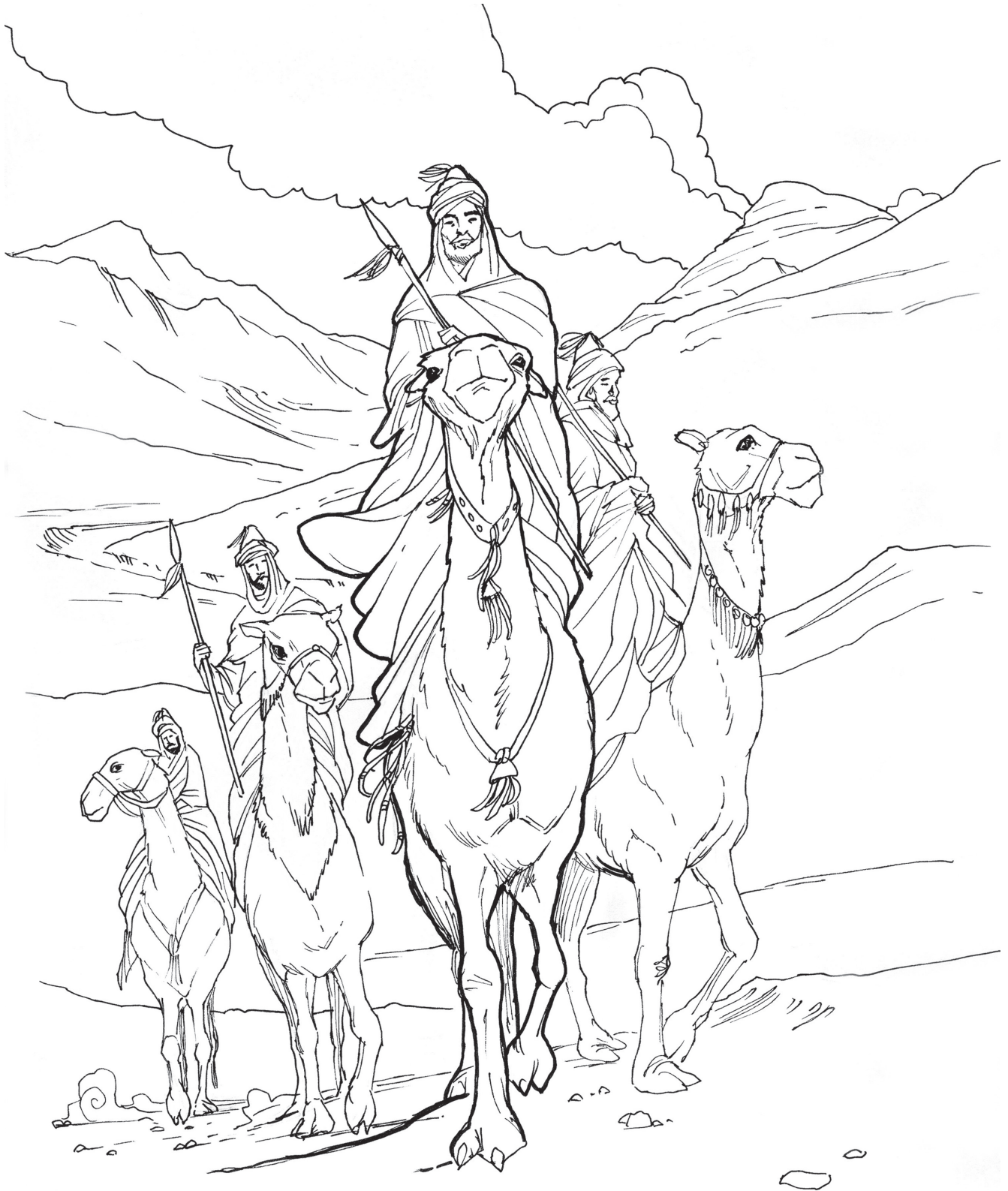
The Magi Come to See Jesus

These men studied the stars and planets to figure out what was going to happen in the world. God used a special star in the sky to tell them that Jesus was born. The magi traveled very far to see the baby.

Adoration of the Magi by Sandro Botticelli



Uffizi Gallery, Florence/Art Resource, NY



Matthew 2:1-12