

LESSON 3: WISE MEN WORSHIP KING JESUS

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Christmas Preschool

 Matthew 2:1-18

12/27/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Matthew 2:1-18
- In This Passage: In today's Bible passage, a group of wise men who've studied the stars notice an unusual star and follow it to Jerusalem, where Israel's king lived. They're looking for the newborn king who had caused the star to rise. When the wise men find Jesus, they worship him. Hearing of this, King Herod wants to kill Jesus, but God leads both the wise men and Jesus' family to keep him safe.
- Bible Point: Jesus is the king.
- Summary Verse: "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him" (Matthew 2:2).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is the king*. Although your kids may not live in a country ruled by a king, they're probably very familiar with the concept of kings, queens, and princesses. Kids need to know that Jesus is set apart even from an earthly king—he's the king of the world...forever!
- Think About: What would it be like to live in a country ruled by King Herod? How would it make a difference to know that Jesus is king over Herod? What difference does it make to know that Jesus is the king over the hard things in your life?

Dig In to Prayer

- Write things that seem to rule in your kids' lives (besides God). Cross each one out as you pray that your kids will see how Jesus is king over everything else.

Quick Tip

- Bookmark the Bible passage in a few Bibles before class each week. Kids who aren't as familiar with the Bible will be able to easily find the passage.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



MUSIC VIDEO

Preschoolers sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- “You Are the Messiah” (Matthew 16:16) music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “He Loved Us First” music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “I Believe” (John 1:12) music video (watch or download [here](#))



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers pretend to take gifts to Jesus.

Supplies

- giant building blocks or paper lunch sacks stuffed with newspaper and folded down (1 for every 3 preschoolers)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers follow a light.

Supplies

- 4 hula hoops
- flashlight

Easy Prep

- Dim the overhead lights so the light from the flashlight can be seen.
- Set each hula hoop in a different corner of the room, making sure there aren't any obstacles between them.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers travel like wise men and learn about King Jesus.

Supplies

- Bible
- flashlight
- classroom items
- large laundry basket

Easy Prep

- Round up classroom items such as stuffed animals, dolls, blankets, or other toys. Put them in the laundry basket.



PRESCHOOL PUPPET SKIT

Recommended for preschoolers.

Supplies

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))
- paper crown

Easy Prep

- Put the paper crown on Theo's head.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers circle around a star and cheer for Jesus.

Supplies

- “Crown” handout (download [here](#))
- “Star” handout (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Cut out and tape together the paper crown from the “Crown” handout. (Or use a crown made during the craft activity.)
- Cut the star from the “Star” handout.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.

WELCOME TIME



OPENING

Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

Thank preschoolers for coming.

Just for fun, have kids give a fist bump to four friends.

Make announcements.

Introduce new kids.

Celebrate birthdays by lining up people with birthdays in the upcoming week and having everyone else run by to high-five them.

Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Jesus is the king**. Today we'll learn that the wise men followed a star to find a newborn king—Jesus—and they worshipped him when they found him.

Share

Tell about a king or queen *you* know of from a movie or a storybook.

Have preschoolers tell about a king or queen *they* know of from a movie or a storybook.

Say: **Jesus wasn't like those kings. He's the king forever.**

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **The Bible is God's special book. God can talk to us through the Bible. God is here right now, ready to talk to you.**

Pray, thanking Jesus that he's the king.

LET'S GET STARTED



OPTION 1: MUSIC VIDEO

[10 min]

You Are the Messiah

Supplies

- “You Are the Messiah” (Matthew 16:16) music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “He Loved Us First” music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “I Believe” (John 1:12) music video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



OPTION 2: LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Camel Crossing

Supplies

- giant building blocks or paper lunch sacks stuffed with newspaper and folded down (1 for every 3 preschoolers)

Review the Bible Story

Say: **Wise men traveled from a faraway place so they could worship the new king, Jesus. They gave Jesus special presents—gifts fit for a king. They may have needed donkeys or camels to carry those special presents. Let's pretend to be the wise men taking our gifts to Jesus with the help of our camels.**

Carry the Gifts

Form groups of three, and have them stand on one side of the room.

Choose one child in each group to be the "Camel." The other two children are "Wise Men."

Have the Camels get down on their hands and knees, and instruct the two Wise Men in each group to stand on either side of their Camel.

Give each group a giant building block or stuffed paper sack.

Say: **Let's pretend these blocks are our special gifts for Jesus, the king! Wise Men, put the gift on your Camel's back. Pause. Camels, your job is to crawl and carry the gift for Jesus all the way to the other side of the room. Wise Men, walk next to your Camel and keep the gift from falling. Ready? Go!**

Once Camels reach the other side of the room, have another child in each group take a turn as the Camel. Play several times so each child gets a couple of turns as the Camel.

Talk About It

After the game, gather preschoolers together and say: **The wise men worshipped Jesus by giving him gifts.**

Ask: • **What are ways we can worship Jesus?**

Say: **We can worship Jesus by singing, clapping along to a worship song, and even telling others about him. When we worship Jesus, we're telling him how much we love him. Jesus is our king!**



OPTION 3: HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Star Chase

Supplies

- 4 hula hoops
- flashlight

Easy Prep

- Dim the overhead lights so the light from the flashlight can be seen.
- Set each hula hoop in a different corner of the room, making sure there aren't any obstacles between them.

Tip

- If you have a large group, have kids touch the hoop with their toes so more kids can fit around it, or use rope instead of hula hoops to make larger circles for kids to stand in.

Review the Bible Story

Say: **Jesus had some very special visitors called wise men. One night, they saw a special star in the sky that was unlike *anything* they'd seen before. The wise men knew this star meant a new king had been born for God's people. And that king was Jesus—Jesus is the king of all God's people. The wise men followed this star until they found Jesus. Let's play a game to follow the light, like the wise men followed the star.**

Follow the Light

Have preschoolers stand in the middle of the room. Point out the hula hoops in the corners.

Say: **I'm going to shine this flashlight into one of the hoops. When you see the light, run to that hoop and stand inside it. Stay inside the hoop until you see the light shining in another hoop. Then run to that hoop as fast as you can. The light will guide you and help you know where to go next.**

Play several rounds, shining the flashlight into the various hula hoops and mixing up the order of which hoops you shine the light into.

Talk About It

After the game, say: **God gave the wise men the star to guide them and lead them to Jesus. God puts special stars in our lives, too—such as people who help lead us to Jesus.**

Ask: • **Who are “stars” in your life who help you know more about Jesus?**
• **What can you do this week to be a star for someone else, helping that person find Jesus?**

Remind preschoolers that Jesus is the king for everyone and we can help people know more about Jesus' love for them.

BIBLE STORY TIME



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

[20 min]

Wise Men Worship King Jesus (Matthew 2:1-18)

Supplies

- Bible
- flashlight
- classroom items
- large laundry basket

Easy Prep

- Round up classroom items such as stuffed animals, dolls, blankets, or other toys. Put them in the laundry basket.

Play Follow the Leader

Say: Today we're learning that Jesus is the king. A king is like a leader who helps people know what to do. Let's play a quick game of Follow the Leader to see what that's like.

Play a quick game of Follow the Leader, guiding children around the room by hopping, taking giant steps, giving each other hugs or high-fives, and clapping hands. Then sit down and tell preschoolers that you don't want to be the leader anymore. Ask children to play the game *without* a leader. After about a minute, gather the children.

Ask: • **What was it like to play the game without a leader?**

• **What would it be like to play this game with a leader who led you to do things that might hurt?**

Say: Jesus is the king. He's a good and wise and loving king who cares for each one of you. Point to each child and say, Jesus is the king who cares about [child's name].

Tell About the Jews

Open your Bible to Matthew 2, and show kids the passage.

Say: **The Bible tells us about God's special people, called the Jews. Long, long ago, the Jews didn't have their own king or leader. They had to follow a bad king who didn't love God. The Jews were waiting and waiting and waiting for a good king who would lead them in God's way.**

Lower your voice to a whisper. **They didn't know that Jesus was the king they'd been waiting for!**

Gather Up Gifts

Say: **About that same time, there also lived some wise men who studied the stars at night. Dim the lights. They lived a *loooooong* way from Jesus and his family. After Jesus was born, they noticed something in the sky one night. Shine the flashlight at the ceiling. It was a new, special star! They knew that this star meant that the king of the Jews had been born. Jesus is the king! So the wise men went on a trip to find the new king and worship him. *Worship* means that we tell someone we love them and think they're the best!**

Ask: • **What do people do to show *you* that they love you?**

Tell preschoolers that one way to worship is to bring presents. Explain that the wise men wanted to bring gifts to the new king.

Say: **The wise men brought expensive gifts like gold and fancy oils and spices. That may seem like a silly gift for a little boy, but the expensive gifts would help Jesus' family. They didn't have very much money.**

Bring out the basket and let preschoolers each choose a "gift" that they'll take to the new king.

Take a Trip

Say: **The wise men lived far away from where Jesus and his family lived. So they loaded up their presents and took a trip, following the star the whole time.**

Let's travel to see Jesus, the king!

Keep your flashlight pointed at one spot, and lead preschoolers on a winding journey. While you travel, ask: • **If you were looking for a king, where would you go?**

Stop and gather children away from the light. Explain that the wise men stopped at the palace, since that's usually where kings live.

Say: **Remember, the king at that time didn't follow God. He was *not* happy to hear that there was a new king! He didn't know about Jesus. That king told the wise men, "When you find the king, come tell me so that I can worship him, too." But the king lied. He wanted to hurt Jesus. The wise men kept following the star to find Jesus, the king.**

Lead children and gather underneath the light. Tell preschoolers that the wise men found Jesus and his family and gave them the gifts.

Say: **The wise men gave the gifts to Jesus and bowed down to worship him.** Lead children in setting the gifts in a pile on the floor, underneath the light. Then gather and kneel in a circle around the gifts. Pray and thank God for sending Jesus to show his love to the world. While you pray, turn off the flashlight.

Return Home

Say: **The wise men didn't tell the other king where Jesus was. In a dream, God told them not to go back to the palace.**

Lead preschoolers back to the other side of the room, taking a different route. Gather them together.

Say: **Jesus is the king. He came as the king for God's special people—even though he didn't live in a palace or have a lot of money. He came to be *our* king, too. Jesus cares for and loves each one of you!**

CLOSING



PRESCHOOL PUPPET SKIT

[10 min]

Theo Teaches Kids a Game

Supplies

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))
- paper crown

Easy Prep

- Put the paper crown on Theo's head.

Tip

- Before printing, turn on page numbering in Word to keep the pages in order (or simply hand-number each page after printing). You may also find it helpful to highlight your part and set the script on a music stand nearby during the skit.

Leader: **It's time for our puppy friend, Theo, to come for a visit. Let's call him to our class with a "woof, woof." Ready?** (*Leads kids to bark until Theo is brought into view.*)

Theo: **Hooowwloo, friends!** (*Howls.*) **I have an itchy-itch, right here.** (*Points to his head.*) **Would you give me a scratch?** (*Circulates among kids so each child can pet him.*)

Leader: **Thanks for giving Theo a great welcome, friends!**

Theo: **I'm so happy to see you!**

Leader: **We're happy to see you, too.** (*Looks to kids.*) **Aren't we, kids?** (*Encourages responses.*)

Theo: **Great, because I heard you were learning that Jesus is the king today, and I wanted to show you a game I learned. Will you play a game with me?** (Listens to kids' responses.)

Leader: **How do you play, Theo?**

Theo: ***It's like Tag. The one wearing this crown (points to the crown) is the king. And all the other players try to tag the king. If you tag him, you hold on to his shoulders or someone else who is holding on to him. The game ends when everyone has tagged the king and is connected to him.***

Leader: **Sounds like fun. Should we play?**

Theo: (Points to the crown on his head.) ***I'll be king first! Ready? Go!***

Leader: (Quickly tags Theo.) ***Gotcha!*** (Holds Theo's shoulder with one hand, and holds Theo low so the first child who tags Theo can hold his other shoulder. Guides kids to continue in the game until everyone is attached. Leads kids to repeat the game with new kids being the king, as time allows.)

Theo: ***That was fun!***

Leader: **Your game reminds me of the Bible story today, Theo.**

Theo: ***Really?***

Leader: **Yes, many people wanted to meet baby Jesus, and many people looked for him. He wasn't trying to get away, though. God just kept him in a safe place so the bad king couldn't find him. And the people learned Jesus is the real king. Thanks for teaching the game to us, Theo!**

Theo: ***You're welcome!*** (Puts a paw to his ear.) ***I think my mom is calling. I'd better go!***

Leader: **Okay, Theo. Kids, let's give Theo a quick "woof, woof, goodbye"!** (Leads kids to say "woof, woof, goodbye," and then places Theo out of sight.)



Worship the King

Supplies

- “Crown” handout (download [here](#))
- “Star” handout (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Cut out and tape together the paper crown from the “Crown” handout. (Or use a crown made during the craft activity.)
- Cut the star from the “Star” handout.

Worship the King

Have kids spread out in a large circle. Stand in the center of the circle with the crown on your head, holding the star.

Say: **The wise men went looking for Jesus because they knew he was king over everything.**

Point to the crown. Say: **This crown will help us think of King Jesus.**

Show the star. Say: **A star in the sky helped the wise men find Jesus.** Have kids practice walking around the circle, spread apart. When you hold the star above your head, have kids quickly gather close to you and say “Jesus is king!”

Repeat this process several times, varying the length of time between walking and holding up the star.

Pray

Put the crown on the ground, and have the children sit around it in a close circle.

Say: **When the wise men found Jesus, they worshipped him. They knew he was king of the Jewish people. We can worship Jesus, too. When we worship Jesus, we tell him that we know he’s king of all and we thank him for coming to save us.**

Let kids pass around the crown. When a child is holding the crown, invite him or her to say Jesus is the king! and thank Jesus for something.

Pray: **God, thank you for sending Jesus to be the king and leader of everything. We love him, and we’re happy you sent him to be with us. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Tell kids that you're glad they came. Say: **When you see a star in the sky this week, remember that Jesus is the king!**

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