

Lesson 14

December 15

A Visit From Some Kings

Preclass Prep

Obtain an appealing visual of camels for the lesson or use a video clip.
Be prepared to hand out a holiday schedule to staff and students. (Also notify by e-mail)
Obtain a decorative covered jar for each student from yard sales or Dollar Tree stores.
Obtain potpourri that students can put into their decorated jar. (may desire to give as a gift)
Set out jars, potpourri, and narrow red curling ribbon for decorative jar.
Purchase candy canes and have Christmas coloring picture copied for students.
If desired, bring baby dolls for baby Jesus.
Bring a large, fancy star for use as a visual during lesson. Also bring cardstock stars for students to finish with glitter.
Consider bringing a framed poem for each student: *What Can I Bring?*

Bible Truth Being Taught

To honor Jesus the newborn King, wise men brought Him gifts. What can I give to Jesus?

Suggested Scripture

Matthew Chapter 2

Accommodating Learning Styles & Disabilities

For those students who enjoy poetry read the famous, classical poem, "What Can I Bring?"
Briefly discuss.

Welcome and Opening Song, Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Welcome students warmly, being sure each is comfortable in the class.
Hold up a camel visual (or play video clip) and ask: Can you guess what camels have to do with our lesson today?
Look what else I have! (show the fancy star) Say: Both of these will be in our lesson today.
See if you can spot them.

Opening song: "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Singing (5 minutes)

Silent Night or Away in the Manger (use baby dolls for Jesus)
Angels Sing! (words attached to last week's lesson)

Interactive (5 minutes) (if time allows)

Tell the story of the making of the candy cane if you haven't done this in prior Christmas lessons.
Or play the video, "Meaning of the Candy Cane" (www.seedfaithbooks.org)
Be prepared to pass out a candy cane to each student as they leave today.

Main Teaching Points (10-15 minutes)

Review of prior Christmas lessons:

- Who can tell me something about Jesus' birth? (try to observe what they can tell you)
(Point out that Jesus was born a King.)
- Jesus was a human baby like you and I, but He was also the Son of God.
- Where was Jesus born? (Bethlehem)
- What does the name "Jesus" mean? (He will save His people from their sins.)
- What was the name of Jesus' mother? (Mary)

Let me tell you another exciting part of the Christmas story--something that happened when Jesus had already grown from being an infant to a toddler, about 2 years old.

-This part of the Christmas story comes from the Book of Matthew Chapter 2.

Read: *After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi [wise men] from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews?"*

-Because Jesus was born a King, many people had heard about His birth, even those who lived in far away countries. There were men who studied the stars. We call them "wise men." They had learned that a Jewish Messiah (or King) would be born about that time. They wanted to know more about this king and worship him, so they came all the way from the East to Jerusalem to see and worship the newborn King.

- It took these men a very long time to travel to Jerusalem on their camels (they didn't have cars) and Jesus would have been about 2 years old by the time they arrived. God caused a mysterious star to appear in the sky that guided them. (Do you remember the angels that appeared in the sky at Jesus' birth?) The wise men first came to King Herod and talked with him about the special child.

Matthew 2:8 says, *"He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me so that I, too, may go and worship him.'"*

Verse 9 says: *After they had heard the king [King Herod], they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.*

-The wise men brought the child costly gifts. Again, they were honoring Jesus and worshipping Him because they recognized that He was the expected Messiah, a Heavenly King.

Do you recognize and honor Jesus in your life as the Son of God? What will you give to Jesus?

Sing or listen to the Christmas carol: "We Three Kings of Orient Are."

Or sing: "Jesus is the Son of God" (Jesus our Savior CD, Faith Alive Christian Resources)

Transition into Craft Time (5 minutes)

Decide which craft ideas you will use **or** if you will allow students to choose:

*Students may be given a star that they can put glitter on if they wish to make it sparkle. Reminder that God in Heaven used a star to guide the wise men to Jesus.

*They may be given a decorative glass jar (with cover) that they may want to use as a gift. A design can be painted on it with acrylic paints. Glitter glue may be used to decorate it. The jar can be filled with their choice of potpourri. A red, curling ribbon may be placed around the rim. It will be a reminder of the gifts that the wise men brought to Jesus.

*Students may enjoy taking home a Christmas coloring sheet.

Complete Craft (20 minutes)

Pair each student with a volunteer to complete the crafts. You may want to assign one volunteer to assist students in using glitter on the star. I suggest this volunteer calls one student at a time to them to complete the activity during the craft time.

Another staff member will ask each student for their praises and prayer requests and be prepared to close the class with prayer.

Transition into Prayer Time and Closing (10 minutes)

Before dismissing, ask students to show their beautiful creations and ask:

-Do you believe that Jesus was born a Heavenly King?

-Do you believe He was and is the Son of God?

-Have you told Jesus that You believe He came to earth as the Son of God?

As students leave today, they should have in hand:

-their star

-their potpourri jar

-their jingle bell bracelets

-framed poem if you have prepared it

-their Christmas coloring picture

-the holiday schedule you have prepared for families and group home staff

Remind students that class will begin again in two weeks - after the holidays.