

# Background Scripture

[Matthew 2](#)

## Story Summary

The wise men were also known as Magi or kings from the East.

It is not clear where they came from exactly - the Bible just says from the east. Some believe they came from Persia (modern day Iran), others from Arabia and others Babylon, since they were noted astronomers.

The Bible is clear that three different gifts were brought to Jesus, but it never says there were only three wise men. It is possible that there were many more.

Again, angels are key to this story, as they appeared to Joseph to warn him that they were not safe in Israel because of King Herod. Because of this dream, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fled to Egypt.

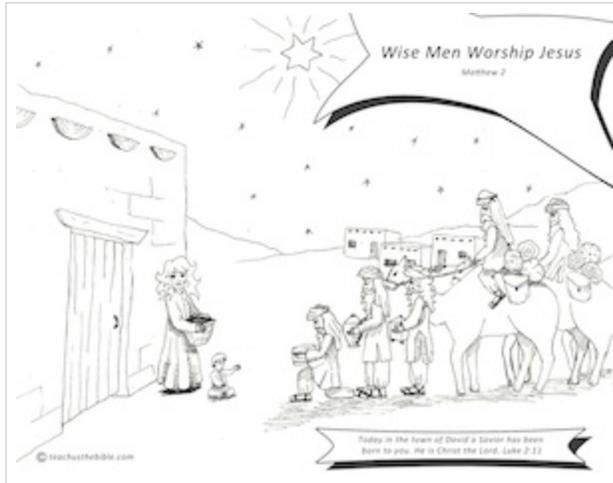
Herod became enraged that he had been tricked by the wise men, and ordered that all baby boys under 2 years old be killed (this is why it is commonly accepted that Jesus was between 1 and 2 years old when the wise men visited, not in the manger scene).

After some time, an angel appeared to Joseph to tell him that it was safe to return to Nazareth from Egypt.

Notice the parallels and contrasts in this story and the story of the Israelite exodus from Egypt:

- In the Old Testament, Jacob's family went to Egypt to escape a famine. In the New Testament, Joseph led his family to Egypt to escape King Herod.
- In the Old Testament, all the baby boys in Egypt were killed in the last plague. Only the Israelite boys were spared. In the New Testament, all the baby boys in Israel were killed due to King Herod's jealousy. Jesus was spared.
- In the Old Testament, the Israelites stayed in Egypt for hundreds of years. In the New Testament, Joseph's family only stayed in Egypt for a couple years (it is not specified, but it is not long)
- In the Old Testament, Moses led his people to the promised land back into Israel - a journey that took over 40 years. In the New Testament, Joseph led his family back into Israel - a journey that did not take very long.

## Resource Sheets



## Wise Men Worship Jesus Coloring Sheet

This coloring sheet depicts the wise men visiting Jesus as a toddler

## 1. Warm Up

get your kids talking and engaged

Do you like looking at the stars at night? Have you ever seen a constellation? Have you ever noticed that some stars are brighter than others? Today, we're going to learn about an incredibly special star, and some men who were expert star watchers.

## 2. Teach the Story

teach a holistic story

Older students can be read directly from the Bible, since the story is short.

The youngest students can be told the story from a [children's storybook Bible](#).

## 3. Bible Mastery

give them basic Bible skills

**Scripture for Kids to Read Aloud:** [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

## 4. Comprehension Questions

make sure they understand the story

*First, ask the children if they have any questions about the story. What to do if you don't know the answer?*

- Who came and brought gifts for Jesus? (The wise men)
- How did the Wise Men find Jesus? (They followed a very bright star.)
- Why was King Herod jealous and upset? (The wise men said that a new king of the Jews had been born)
- After they found Jesus, what did the wise men do? (They went home a different way, and did not return to Herod)
- Who told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt? (An angel)
- Why did they need to go to Egypt? (King Herod was jealous and was ordering all Jewish boys to be killed to try and kill Jesus)
- Who told Joseph to return with his family to Israel? (An angel)
- When King Herod died where did Joseph take Mary and Jesus? (To live in Nazareth)

## 5. Faith Questions

help them apply the story to their lives and open up a conversation about faith and the gospel; close with prayer

- In this story, the wise men brought gifts to Jesus because they recognized that he was a very special baby.
- What gifts can you give Jesus this Christmas season?

## 6. Memory Verse

*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11*  
[https://www.teachthebible.com/Images/L54\\_wisemen\\_mary\\_jesus.pdf](https://www.teachthebible.com/Images/L54_wisemen_mary_jesus.pdf)

Extra Activity:

Children color a poster of the Wise Men. They can add glitter glue to the star on the poster.