LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:
God wants us to seek Jesus.

OBJECTIVE:
Kids will learn that God wants to lead us to Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:
Matthew 2:1-12, The Magi Seek Jesus

MEMORY VERSE:
"She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (NIRV)

SUMMARY:
Starfish are some of the most unique creatures under the sea. They actually look like stars! These five-pointed sea creatures remind us of the star that led the Wise Men to Jesus.

SIMPLE PRAYER:
Dear God,

Thank you for lighting the way to Jesus.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

MEMORY VERSE

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

“She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That’s because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (NIRV)

LARGE GROUP:
Divide the room in half. Pick one side to start and have them all shout the first word, and then the other side shouts the second word, and so on until they finish the verse.

SMALL GROUP:
Have the kids sing the memory verse in the style of their favorite pop/rock singer.

FINDING CHRISTMAS

SKIT

THE STARFISH

ITEMS NEEDED:
A starfish costume that looks really stiff; a Wise Man costume

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:
3 M or F

CHARACTERS:
The narrator
The Starfish
A Wise Man

The Narrator enters.

NARR: As our story resumes today, the tetra fish Mary and her new husband Joseph have traveled to the coral reef of Bethlehem. There, Mary gave birth to a guppy, and she named him Jesus, just as the angelfish told her. Some time later, three wise fish from the eastern seas came seeking out the newborn king of the sea. They knew the way because they were following a starfish.

Pause.

NARR: I said, they knew the way because they were following a starfish!

The starfish enters, struggling to walk.

STARFISH: I can't walk in this costume!

NARR: You don't have to walk. You just have to stand there.

STARFISH: I have to stand! I can't sit down in this thing!

NARR: You look great.

STARFISH: I look like the clown of the sea!

SKIT

NARR: Just sit tight while I tell the story.

STARFISH: Could you hurry? I'm getting an itch and there's no way I can scratch it.

NARR: The wise ones came from the east and said…

The Wise Man enters.

WISE MAN: Where is he who is born king of the sea? We have seen his starfish and have come to worship him.

STARFISH: Now wait just a minute! He gets to dress up like a Wise Man, and I get to be a starfish? How did you get that costume?

WISE MAN: I ordered it on Amazon.

STARFISH: Why?

WISE MAN: Because I am wise.

STARFISH: I wish I was wise. I'd be able to scratch my back right now!

NARR: The Wise Men sought out the baby Jesus to bring him gifts of gold and spices but also their worship. And wise men are still seeking Jesus today. This Christmas, look to the star-

STARFISH: -fish!

NARR: And follow the light. May the light of the Christmas star-

STARFISH: -fish!

NARR: Lead you straight to Jesus.

FINDING CHRISTMAS

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:
An aquarium with a lighted hood (or a picture of one)

Most people who have larger aquariums have a lighted hood on top, do you know why? The obvious answer to that question is that the light helps us see the fish. It makes the tank brighter so we can enjoy watching them swim. But there are a few other reasons for that light on top.

The light doesn't just help us see better, the light helps the fish see better. The fish need the light to find food in the water and find each other. The light also helps the fish to keep a regular day/night schedule. When the light is on, it feels like daytime. When the light goes out, the fish think it's night.

The light in the aquarium is a guide for fish in many ways, just as the star was a guide for the Magi. The star led them to find the most important thing of all - their Savior Jesus. God wants us to follow the light of the star as well so that we can find Jesus.

Follow the star to Jesus this Christmas, and you will find the greatest gift ever given!

LARGE GROUP GAME

SIMON SAYS

ITEMS NEEDED:
None

INSTRUCTIONS:
Choose four players for this game, and pick one to be Simon. Simon has 90 seconds to get all three of the players out by tricking them into doing something when he/she didn't say "Simon Says." If Simon can get everyone out, Simon wins a prize. If Simon fails, the surviving players win a prize.

VARIATION:
Give a prize to all three of the other players if Simon fails his challenge.

WHAT'S THE POINT?
Just as the players followed Simon, we need to follow the star to Jesus.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:
God wants us to seek Jesus.

OBJECTIVE:
Kids will learn that God wants to lead us to Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:
Matthew 2:1-12, The Magi Seek Jesus

INTRO:
There are some strange and wondrous creatures who live under the sea. From the delicate seahorses to the mysterious giant squid, there are creatures that show us just how creative God can be. Sea creatures come in all colors and all shapes - even the shape of a star.

Starfish are one of the most enchanting of all creatures simply because of the way they are shaped. These invertebrates live on the ocean floor and come in a variety of sizes and colors themselves. As a matter of fact, according to Wikipedia, there are more than 1500 known species of starfish. That's a whole lot of stars under the sea!

I could go on and on telling you interesting facts about the starfish to make you believe they are some of the most amazing creatures on Earth, like the fact that most species can regenerate and re-grow arms that get cut off from their bodies. But you don't need an in-depth description to love starfish. They are shaped like stars, and that's enough for most people.

The starfish is a perfect sea creature to talk about at this time of year because the Christmas story has a star of its own! The star in question appeared around the time Jesus was born, and it remained in the sky long enough for a group of wise men to follow its light in search of the baby Jesus. Let's read the story of the Wise Men and see how a simple star brought them to the manger.

READ MATTHEW 2:1-12

MAIN POINT:
The Wise Men were members of a group called the Magi.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

They were mathematicians, scientists, and astronomers, and throughout the centuries, they served as advisors to some of the greatest kings in history, including King Nebuchadnezzar. Some believe that the prophet Daniel was a member of the Magi himself, and that may be how the Magi knew about the star.

The Magi traveled to Israel and went first to the palace of King Herod, thinking this newborn king they had heard about might be there. The teacher's of the law were able to point them in the right direction thanks to the words of the prophet Micah, who said the Savior would be born in Bethlehem. The Magi finally found Jesus in Bethlehem, just as they were told, and they bowed down to worship him.

There aren't too many people seeking Jesus like the Magi today, especially in the busyness that comes with Christmas. That's why we're challenging you to look for the star this year. Don't get distracted by just thinking about what presents you're going to get, but think about what it means that Jesus loved you so much he left heaven to come to earth to save you.

DRIVE IT HOME:

We can learn a lot about the journey of the Magi and how they were able to find Jesus. First of all, the Magi knew how to rely on the Scriptures. We don't know exactly what Scriptures they had that taught them about the star, but it was the prophet Micah whose words led them to Jerusalem.

Psalm 119:105 says the Bible is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. When we read the Bible, we are seeking God, and as Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, when we seek God with all of our heart, we will find him!

The Magi also had great faith to follow the star. They didn't have the Internet, and they didn't have phones to call ahead. They believed the words they had heard, and they set out on a two-year journey to see the Savior for themselves. God wants us to have the faith to follow him, even when we aren't sure where he is leading us. When we follow him in faith, we will find Jesus.

Finally, the Magi didn't give up. This was a long, long trip, and though they probably rode on camels, they had to get tired after just a few weeks. The Magi persevered through the long journey, and their perseverance was rewarded. God will also reward us when we refuse to give up and continue to seek Jesus.

Jesus isn't hard to find. He is just a prayer away. He is waiting to be found in the Scriptures. And he's as real as the porcelain baby Jesus in the nativity scenes we have at home. This Christmas, seek Jesus like the Wise Men. Search for him in the Word of God. Have faith, and never quit. If we seek him, we will find him not under the sea, but right by our side where we need him most! Follow the star, and God will lead you right to your Savior.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:
Dear God,

Thank you for lighting the way to Jesus.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

FINDING CHRISTMAS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:
Have you ever seen a real starfish?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:
Matthew 1:21
Have the kids sing the memory verse in the style of their favorite pop/rock singer.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:
Play a game of Follow the Leader, where one kid does something and everyone else follows.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
Read Matthew 2:1-12

Who were the Wise Men?

Whom were they looking for?

How did the Wise Men make it to Israel?

Why did the Wise Men want to see Jesus?

What is one thing you can do to find Jesus this week?

SIMPLE PRAYER:
Dear God,

Help us to find Jesus in our Christmas celebrations.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

FINDING CHRISTMAS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:
Have you ever seen a real starfish?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:
Matthew 1:21
Have the kids sing the memory verse in the style of their favorite pop/rock singer.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:
Play a game of Follow the Leader, where one kid does something and everyone else follows.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
Read Matthew 2:1-12

Who were the Wise Men looking for?

Why did they follow the star?

How did the Scriptures help them find Jesus?

What is one thing you can do to find Jesus this week?

How can you help your family seek Jesus this week?

SIMPLE PRAYER:
Dear God,

Help us to find Jesus in our Christmas celebrations.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

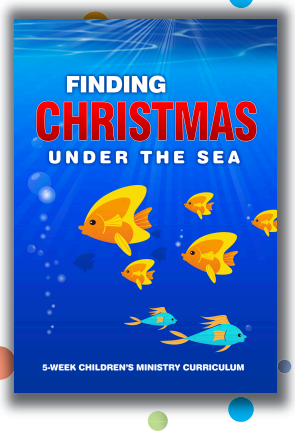
The Wise Men heard about the baby Jesus from an angel.
FALSE

The Wise Men first went to find the baby in Herod's palace.
TRUE

An Old Testament prophecy helped the Magi ind
Jesus. TRUE

Reading the Bible won't help us find Jesus.
FALSE

God wants us to seek Jesus like the Wise Men did.
TRUE



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Finding Christmas Lesson 2

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: STARFISH



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:
Starfish are some of the most unique creatures under the sea. They actually look like stars! These five-pointed sea creatures remind us of the star that led the Wise Men to Jesus. Matthew 2:1-12, The Magi Seek Jesus



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:
Do you have a star on top of your tree? Are there stars in your house? What can you do each time you see a star to remind yourself to look for Jesus?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:
- How did the Wise Men know how to find Jesus?
- How does God point the way to Jesus for us?
- What is one thing we can do as a family to find Jesus?



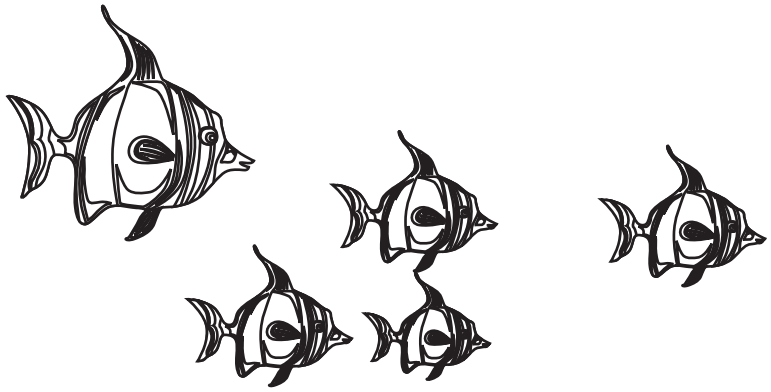
AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:
"She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (NIRV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:
Do you have a daily habit of seeking Jesus? Make a plan to spend some time in Scripture and prayer every day this week, and encourage your kids to do the same. Check up on each other as the week goes on, and see how everyone is doing with their plan!



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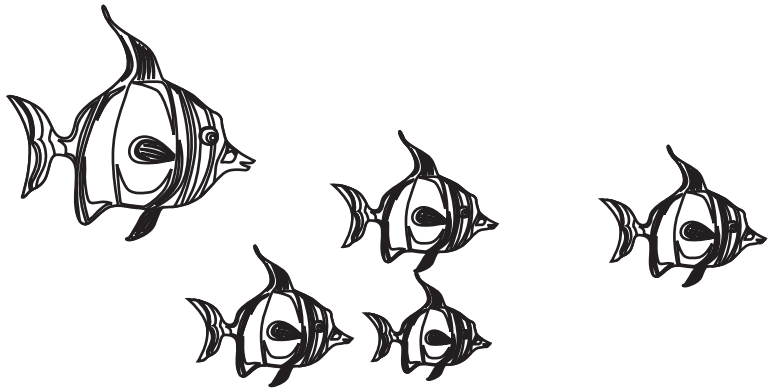

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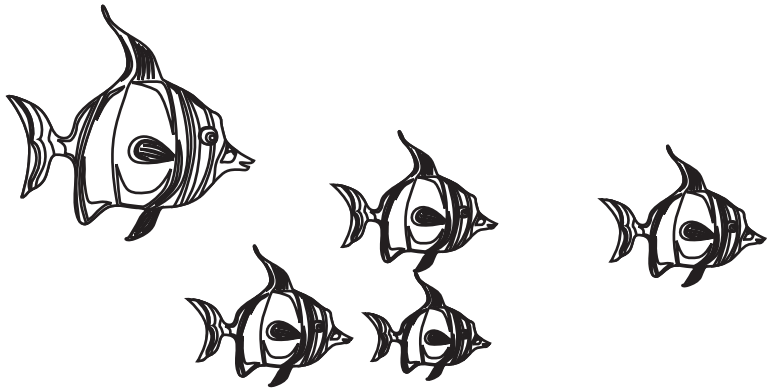

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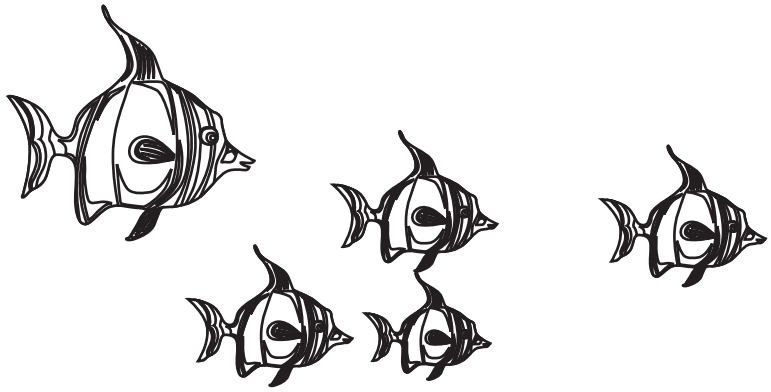

"She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins." - Matthew 1:21 NIRV

CUT ON DASHED LINE

FINDING CHRISTMAS

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids make paper star ornaments to hang on their Christmas tree at home.

