The Bible Under the Baobab · Discussion sheet for the Epiphany special

We Have Seen His Star

Matthew 2:1-12 · For ages 3 to 10 · Video: 5 min 13



The story in brief

Wise men from the east arrive in Jerusalem: “We have seen his star in the east, and we have come to worship him.” King Herod is troubled and sends them to Bethlehem. The star stops over the place where the child is: they bow down and offer him gold, frankincense and myrrh. Warned in a dream, they go home by another way.

> **Note for parents.** The episode follows Matthew 2, verses 1 to 12, closely and adds nothing to it. Matthew’s text does not say how many wise men there were, or that they were kings, or what their names were; it mentions no camels and no crowns. So the words say nothing about these, and the wise men travel on foot, in traveling clothes. In the pictures there are three of them, one for each gift: that is the only choice in the pictures that goes beyond the text. The wise men go into a “house”: so there is no manger, no stable and no shepherds (those come from the Gospel of Luke, told in the Christmas special). The child is a little child on his mother’s lap, with no halo; Joseph is not named in this scene and is not shown. The flight to Egypt and the rest of the chapter (verses 13 to 18) are not told. Grandma only says: “Herod did not wish the child well. But God was watching over him.” Nothing about Herod is threatening in the pictures. God is never pictured: the dream is a soft light, with no angel. Three explanations come from Grandma and not from the text: the wise men are “men who had learned many things,” from a faraway land; Herod is troubled because he hears about “another king,” and frankincense and myrrh are “precious perfumes.” The prophet’s words (verses 5 and 6) are slightly simplified.

Let’s talk about it

1. Where do the wise men come from? What have they seen?
2. What do they ask when they arrive in Jerusalem?
3. According to the prophet, where was the Christ to be born?
4. What does the star do? How do the wise men feel when they see it?
5. What do the wise men do in front of the child? What gifts do they offer him?
6. Nia made a bracelet and Kofi a rattle for Auntie Abena’s baby. And you, what gift can you make with your own hands? For whom?

> **Notes for the grown-up.** They come from the east, from a faraway land; they have seen a star. “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east, and we have come to worship him.” In Bethlehem, in Judea. It goes ahead of them and stops over the place where the child is; they are filled with very great joy. They bow down, with their faces to the ground, and they worship him; they offer him gold, frankincense and myrrh.

To remember

We have seen his star, and we have come from afar! What great joy: here is the child Jesus, under the star!

The song: We Have Seen His Star

We have seen his star, and we have come from afar!
What great joy: here is the child Jesus, under the star!

To do

Make a little gift with your own hands for someone: a drawing, a bracelet, a card. Then draw the big star over the house, and the wise men arriving with their chests.

Watch the episode and hear the song: labiblesouslebaobab.com/en/episodes/we-have-seen-his-star/

From the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 2, verses 1 to 12 (Matthew 2:1-12). Free for home, Sunday school and children’s ministry.