



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle A – Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60: 1-6; Psalm 71; Ephesians 3, 2-3a.5-6; Matthew 2, 1-12

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king, they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Reflection

The Word Epiphany means revelation. How is the Three Kings visiting a revelation? (The Three Kings knew the Jewish scripture that a Savior King would be born, preceded by a star. That is why, when they saw the star, following the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they set out to find the newborn King.) **The Three Kings were not Jewish like Joseph and Mary; they were from foreign lands. What does God reveal to us by this?** (Jesus' message is for the whole world, not just the Jewish people.) **Traveling a long way bearing gifts for a newborn King reveals that a very special King would be born. What must they have thought when they found the baby in a stable?** (God is humble and loves poverty of heart.) **They took gold, incense, and myrrh as gifts. What did this reveal?** (Gold is offered to kings and Jesus is a King; incense is offered up to God and Jesus is God; myrrh was used to bury people and Jesus is human and would suffer and die for us.) **For them, the star was the presence of God. How can we be God's light for others? Share.**



Activity

On the next pages select an activity to talk about the symbols of the Epiphany and how we can be stars leading others to baby Jesus. Game: hide stars, each with a Word that describes how they can be light to others (loving, sharing, forgiving, praying, going to Mass...) Then, have the children read what their star says and say how they want to put it into practice.

Prayer

Jesus, you are the light of the world. Sometimes I get lost because I am interested in things that lead me away from you. Teach me to follow your light always so I may lead others to you. Amen.

Song: O Come all Ye Faithful, Lifetree Kids (Ctrl Click) <https://youtu.be/1Yl3Kaxx2gk>

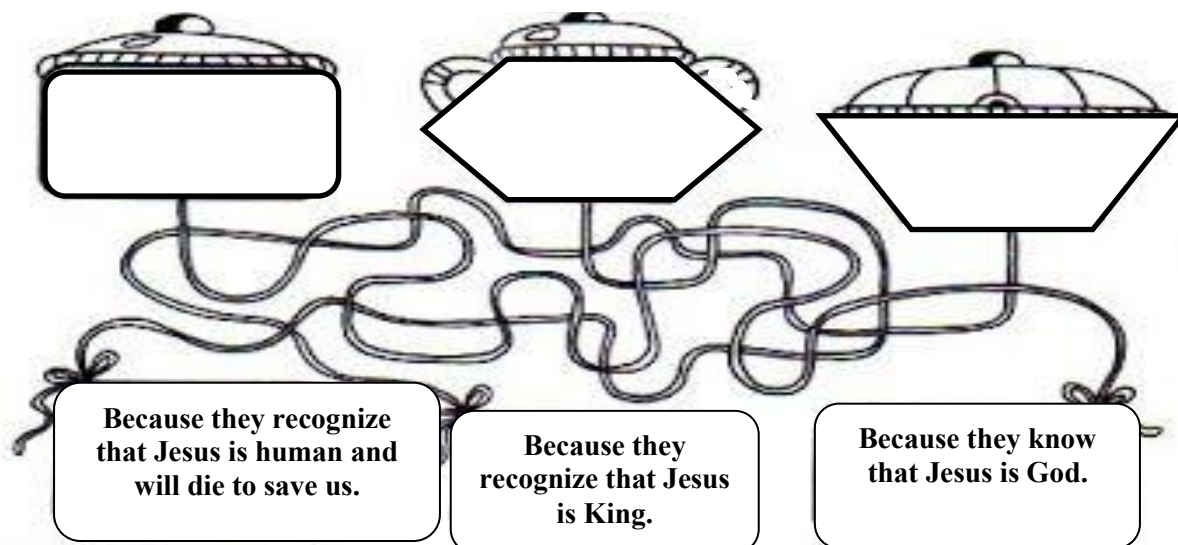
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SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY, Matthew 2:1-12



Write the name of each gift that the Three Kings brought to Jesus in the appropriate boxes below. Follow the thread to see the meaning of the gift.



Select from: gold, frankincense, and myrrh



What does Epiphany mean? It's a Greek word that means manifestation or revelation.

What do we celebrate? God revealed himself not only to the shepherds or the Jewish people, but to the whole world. The magi started their journey from distant lands following a star, which they interpreted as God's presence. This means that the Son of God should be recognized by all men, in all places, always.

What gifts did the magi give? The magi kneeled and adored baby Jesus. Melchior gave gold which is offered only to kings, showing Jesus is a king. Gaspar gave incense, which is offered only to God, showing Jesus is God. Balthasar gave myrrh, which was used in burials, recognizing that Jesus is also a man and prefiguring His suffering and death to save us.

Why do we call them magi? The Greek word (magoi) means wise men. Originally, the word referred to Persian priests who interpreted signs, particularly in astronomy. They had access to Jewish scripture that foretold the coming of a messiah, preceded by a star. (Numbers 24:17)

Where do the magi's names originate? The names originated from a painting in San Apolinar Nuovo in Ravenna, Italy. (6th century)

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Friends of Jesus and Mary Amigos de Jesús y María



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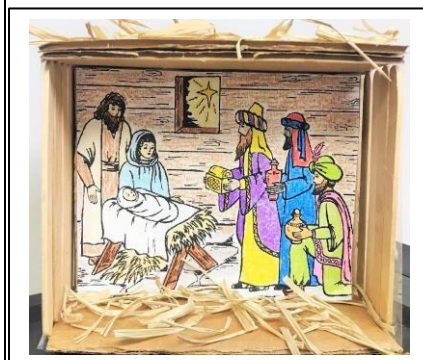


Instructions:

- Piece of cardboard 6"x 8.5".
- Fold 2" from top and bottom to form ceiling and floor.
- Put box tape from ceiling to floor on both sides to form a room.
- Stick popsicle sticks to sticky side of tape (inside).
- Color picture.
- Glue to inside.
- Glue explanation behind.
- Glue hay to roof and floor.

We celebrate the manifestation of Jesus as Son of God to the Wise Men that came from the East to adore Him.

- ❖ The star announced the coming of Jesus. Today the Gospel announces the message of Jesus to all. The Wise men were not Jewish like Joseph and Mary. They came from faraway lands (the Orient: Persia and Babylonia). Jesus' message is for all nations.
- ❖ The Wise Men persevered a long, difficult, tiring journey. Following God implies sacrifice, but God rewards us with joy and eternal life.
- ❖ The Wise Men had faith in God. They believed even though they didn't see or understand. Maybe they thought they would find God in a grand palace; but they adored Him and gave Him gifts in a manger, thereby accepting God's plan.
- ❖ The Wise Men were generous. They gave Him:
 - **gold**: given to kings. Jesus is the king of the world.
 - **incense**: given to God. Jesus is the son of God made man.
 - **myrrh**: placed on chosen men. Jesus was chosen amongst men.
- ❖ What do we offer God? In life we should search for God untiringly and happily offer Him all that we have and are. We should also be stars leading others to Jesus.
- ❖ The Wise Men felt great joy seeing baby Jesus. They knew how to value God's great love for men. (adapted from Catholic.net)



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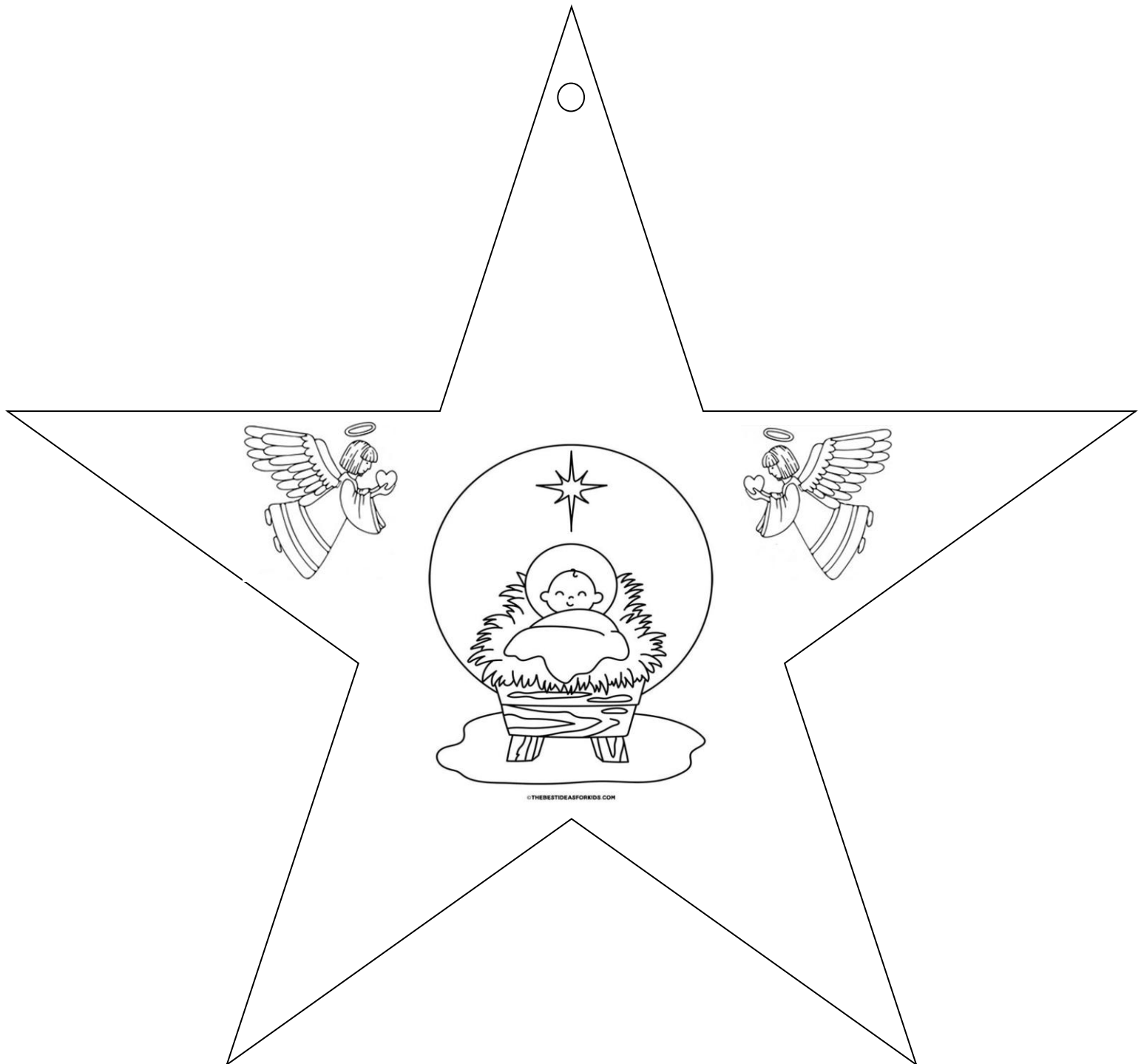
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I WANT TO BE A LIGHT THAT TAKES OTHERS TO JESUS.

Instructions: Write or draw on the 5 arms of the star, how you can be a light leading others to Jesus. Color, cut and hang with a ribbon.



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