Preschool–Grade 5

Wise Men Craft

House, star and three gifts · Matthew 2:1–12 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium

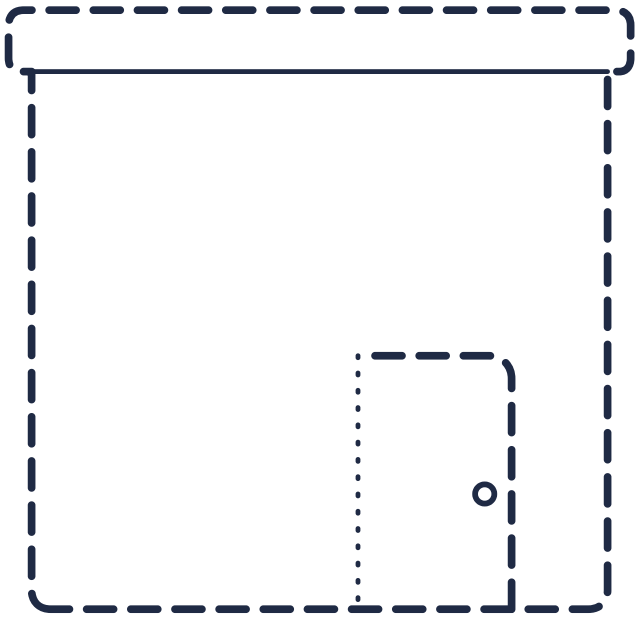


Harder

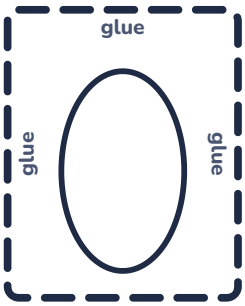
Both levels have a house with a door that opens, the star above it and three gifts below it, glued on dark blue paper, because the star "stood over where the young child was" (Matthew 2:9) and the wise men came "into the house" (Matthew 2:11). Medium (left): three flat gifts from page 2. Harder (right): three treasure flaps from page 3 that lift up to show each gift's name.

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Name: _____ ✂ Cut on the dashed lines · fold on the dotted line

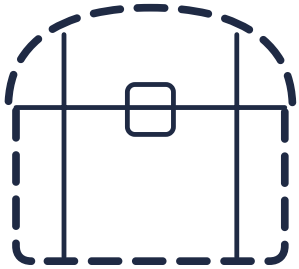




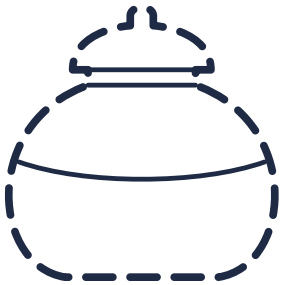


Window card

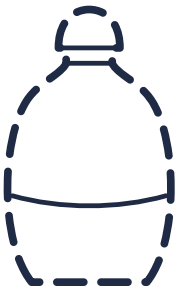
glue it behind the door



gold: color it yellow



frankincense: color it brown



myrrh: color it orange

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Matthew 2:10 (KJV)

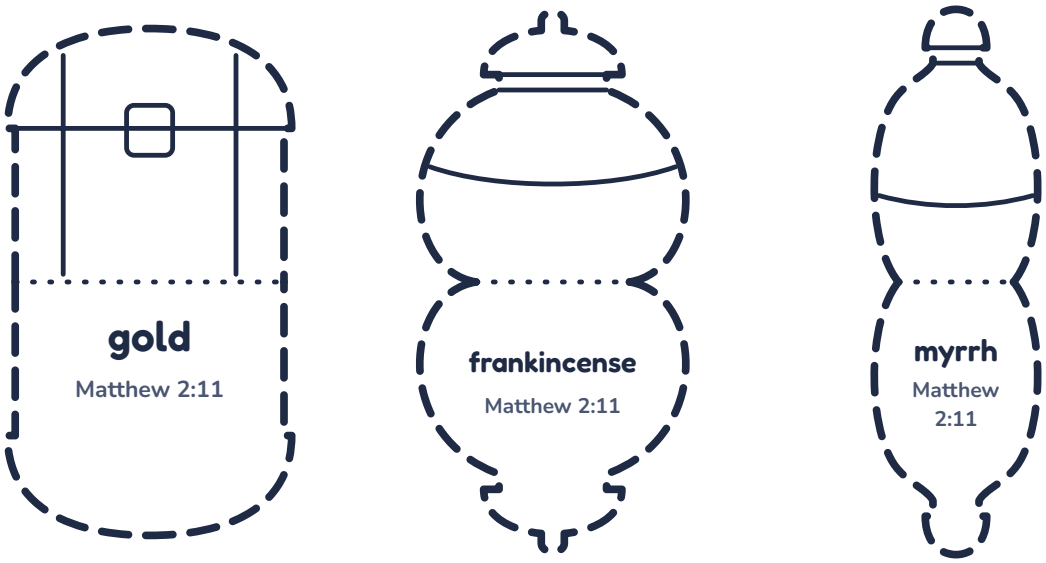
Color the house light brown, the door brown and the star yellow. In the oval, draw the young child with Mary his mother (Matthew 2:11). Cut out every piece. Cut the door on its two dashed sides and fold it open on the dotted line.

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

Treasure flaps (harder level)

Color the treasures like the gifts on page 2. Cut on the dashed lines.
Fold the word half back on the dotted line and glue the two halves together.



Glue each flap with a dot of glue at the top edge only, so it lifts up.
Use the house, window card, star and verse strip from page 2.

How to make the treasure flaps

1. Color the gold chest yellow, the frankincense pot brown and the myrrh jar orange, just like the gifts on page 2.
2. Cut out each treasure flap on the dashed line, around both halves.
3. Fold the word half back on the dotted line, so the blank sides touch. Glue the two halves together.
4. Make the house, window card and star from page 2. Don't use the three flat gifts.
5. Put a dot of glue on the back of each flap at the top edge only, and press it in a row below the house.
6. Lift each flap to read the name of the gift. The wise men "opened their treasures" and gave Jesus gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/wise-men-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), one sheet of dark blue construction paper per child (9 by 12 inches), light brown, brown, yellow and orange crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the pieces, cut the door on its two dashed sides and glue each window card behind its door ahead of time.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's house, window card, star, three gifts and verse strip, cut the door and glue the window card behind it. Kids color the pieces and draw in the window (or you draw a simple picture for them). Then they glue the house, the star and the three gifts on the dark blue paper with your help. You glue the verse strip on the back. Read the verse together, or just "they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw in the window, cut out the pieces, cut and fold the door, glue the window card behind it and glue everything on the dark blue paper. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the house, window card and star like the medium level, but instead of the three flat gifts, make the three treasure flaps from page 3: color them, cut them out, fold the word half back, glue the halves together and glue each flap by its top edge only, so it lifts up to show the gift's name. Kids say Matthew 2:10 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the house light brown and the door brown. Color the star yellow. Color the gold chest yellow, the frankincense pot brown and the myrrh jar orange.
2. **Draw:** in the oval on the window card, draw the young child with Mary his mother (Matthew 2:11).
3. **Cut:** cut out the house, the window card, the star, the three gifts and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
4. **Door:** cut the door on its two dashed sides, starting at the bottom edge of the house. Fold it open on the dotted line.
5. **Window:** turn the house over. Put glue on the border of the window card, where it says glue, and press it on the back of the house behind the door, bottom edges even. Open the door: the oval shows through.
6. **Scene:** glue the house near the bottom of the dark blue paper. Don't put glue on the door. Glue the star above the house, and close the door.
7. **Gifts:** glue the three gifts in a row below the house.
8. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back and read it together.

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Questions to ask while kids work

- The wise men said, "we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him" (Matthew 2:2). Point to your star. What did the star do? *(It went before them and stood over where the young child was, 2:9)*
- Open your door. Where did the wise men find Jesus, and who was with Him? *(In the house, with Mary His mother, 2:11)*
- Point to each gift. What did the wise men give Jesus? *(Gold, frankincense and myrrh, 2:11)* They also bowed down and worshiped Him. How can you worship Jesus this week?

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** rejoiced = were very glad; exceeding great joy = very, very great joy; treasures = the valuable things they brought; frankincense and myrrh = costly gums from trees that smell sweet (frankincense was in the holy incense, Exodus 30:34).
- **What the Bible says:** Matthew 2 doesn't say how many wise men there were, and it doesn't mention camels. It names three gifts. It says the wise men came "into the house" and saw "the young child" (Matthew 2:11), so this craft shows a house, not a manger.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything, including the door, and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Doors that open:** remind kids to keep glue off the back of the door, or it won't open. Cardstock makes a sturdier door.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free wise men Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/wise-men.

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