Preschool–Grade 6

The Wise Men

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: The wise men came to worship Jesus. I can worship Jesus too!
Bible passage: Matthew 2. Read Matthew 2:1–12 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "they rejoiced with exceeding great joy" *Matthew 2:10 (KJV)*. **Rejoiced** means they were very glad.
You need: a Bible, a large star cut from yellow paper, a few more paper stars to hide, three small "treasures" (like a small box, a jar and a little bag), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 2. Hide the paper stars around the room. Tape the big star on the wall above a chair or a small table. That is the "house."

1. Opening game: Find the Stars (5 minutes)

Kids hunt for the hidden paper stars and bring them to you. Count them together. Say: "You found the stars! Today's true story is about wise men who saw a star and came to find Jesus."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 2. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus was born in a town called Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1). *(Rock a baby in your arms.)*
Wise men in the east saw His star (2:2). *(Point up high.)*
They came to find Jesus, the King (2:1–2). *(Walk in place.)*
They said they had come to worship Him! (2:2) *(Fold your hands.)*
King Herod was not happy (2:3). *(Make a grumpy face.)*
The star went before the wise men (2:9). *(Move your hand slowly across the sky.)*
The star stopped over the place where Jesus was (2:9). *(Freeze! Hold your hand still.)*
The wise men were very, very glad (2:10). *(Clap your hands.)*
Say it with me: "They rejoiced!"
They went into the house (2:11). *(Open a pretend door.)*
They saw young Jesus with Mary His mother (2:11). *(Shade your eyes and look.)*
They bowed down and worshiped Him (2:11). *(Bow down low.)*
Say it with me: "We worship Jesus!"
They gave Him gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh (2:11). *(Hold up one, two, three fingers.)*
God told them in a dream to go home another way (2:12). *(Lay your head on your hands, then walk.)*
Say it with me: "God takes care of Jesus!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did the wise men see? *(His star, Matthew 2:2)*
2. Where did they find Jesus? *(In a house, with Mary His mother, 2:11)*
3. What did they do when they saw Jesus? *(They bowed down and worshiped Him, and they gave Him gifts, 2:11)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "When the wise men saw the star, 'they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.' That means they were very, very glad!" Teach the motion: point up to the star, then clap and jump on "exceeding great joy." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Matthew 2:10" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a baby (1 Timothy 3:16). When He grew up, Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

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6. Activity: Gifts Under the Star (5–10 minutes)

Let three children at a time each carry one "treasure" across the room and lay it on the "house" under the big star, while the group says, "Gold, frankincense and myrrh!" Do it until every child has had a turn. Then give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a star over a house. While they color, ask: "What did the wise men see? Where did they find Jesus?"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for giving us Jesus.
I love You and I worship You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child do the motions. If they get wiggly, do the star motions again (move your hand across the sky, then freeze). Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks "Where are the camels?": say, "The Bible doesn't tell us how the wise men traveled. It tells us they saw His star and came to worship Jesus."

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