

**Bring Him Gifts**

(based on Matthew 2:1-12)

A long, long way from Bethlehem lived some very wise men called magi (MAY-jai). At night, the magi studied the stars. One night, they saw a brand-new star.

The magi gathered to talk about this bright new star. Where had it come from? Did it have a special meaning? After a lot of thinking and a lot of talking, they decided that the star had an important message.

“Someone special has been born!” they declared. “It is a new king.”

“We must leave right now,” exclaimed one of the magi. “We must follow the star, find the child, and bow down to him.”

And that’s what they did. They fetched their camels. They packed for the journey. They chose very special gifts to give to the new king. Then they set off on their camels.

The magi traveled at night so they could follow the bright star. Night after night, they rode their camels. Night after night, they followed the star. It was a very long journey.

Finally, the magi arrived in Jerusalem. They went at once to the royal palace of King Herod. If a new king had been born, surely he would be living in the palace.

“Where is the baby born to be king?” they asked King Herod. “We saw his star in the eastern skies, and we have come to worship him.”

King Herod was not very happy to hear the magi’s question. In fact, he was upset. He didn’t want any other kings being born. He talked with his helpers and went back to the magi.

“My helpers tell me that child you are looking for is in Bethlehem,” Herod explained. “Go find the child, then come back and tell me where he is. I want to bring gifts to the new king too.”

The magi climbed back onto their camels. They followed the star and went to Bethlehem. The star led them to a little house. The magi were so glad to be at the end of their long journey! They went inside and saw Jesus with Mary, his mother.

One by one, the magi knelt down and gave Jesus special gifts: gold, sweet-smelling frankincense, and precious myrrh (MER).

That night, God sent dreams to the magi, warning them not to go back to King Herod. The next day, they said goodbye to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. They climbed onto their camels and went back home by a different way.



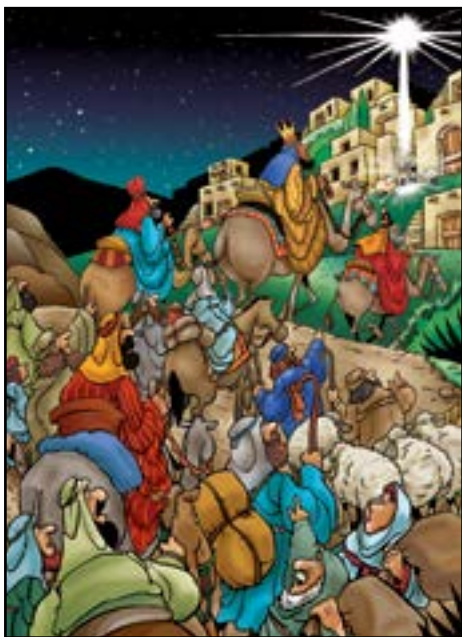
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(based on Matthew 2:1-12)

Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

### Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story together—imagine and wonder.
- Imagine taking a long journey on a camel. Invite everyone to pretend to get on a camel, to imitate the motions of riding a camel, and to imagine following a bright star while riding a camel. Have fun pretending to be the magi.
- Make a description or drawing of the sign that God used to guide the magi.
- Add the magi and camels to your child-friendly nativity set. Have your family act out bringing the gifts to the baby Jesus. Have Mary and Joseph receive the gifts for the baby.
- Talk with your child about trips you have taken, decisions you have made, or experiences you have had when you felt God leading you with signs and wonders. Invite everyone to share signs or wonders they have noticed in their lives.



### Responding to God's Grace

- Make points-of-light pictures by covering a blank sheet of heavy paper with yellow marker or watercolor and allow to dry. Then color over the yellow with heavy black crayon. Invite your child to scratch spots in the black with dull scissors, letting dots of yellow show through like starlight.

### Celebrating in Gratitude

- On a clear night, go outside to star-gaze, taking a flashlight with you. Tell everyone to pick a bright star as their point of light. When everyone has a star, sing a song to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
what a glorious light you are!  
Are you the star that shined so bright,  
leading magi every night?  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
what a glorious light you are!

Twinkle, twinkle, light of mine,  
remind me to let God's light shine.  
Help me, guide me, every day  
to share God's light along the way.  
Twinkle, twinkle, light of mine,  
remind me to let God's light shine.

- Pray an echo prayer each day this week:

*Dear God, /  
thank you /  
for guiding the magi /  
with a star. /  
Guide me each day /  
to watch for ways /  
to share your light. /  
Amen. /*