



a Kendall Hunt Company

Solemnity of the Epiphany, Primary - RCLB Lectionary



Primary Session: Matthew 2:1-12

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

God of Light,

may we shine with love like the star of Bethlehem.

Thank you for the best gift of all, the gift of your Son, Jesus.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

Opening Life Reflection

The theme for today is God's universal gift of salvation. To begin, provide stars cut out of gold paper and pencils for each child. Invite the children to think of the greatest gift that God has given them and have them write it down on their star. Discuss:

- What is the greatest gift that God has given you?
- Why did God give us the gift of Jesus?
- How can you thank God for the gifts that you have been given?

Allow time for discussion. The wise men found their way to Jesus by following a star that gave great light. On today's Feast of the Epiphany we celebrate that God's loving gift of salvation is for all people.

Listening to the Word of God

In the Gospel today listen to find out how the wise men find their way to Jesus.

Read Matthew 2:1-12.

Allow for silence.

Scripture Discussion Starters

- How do the wise men find their way to Jesus?
- What do the magi do when they find Jesus?
- What gifts do the wise men bring to Jesus?

Scripture Background

Provide 2-3 minutes of background information on the gospel using the Catechist Background section.

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany. On Epiphany we recognize that Jesus, the light of the world, was made visible to the magi who searched for him. On today's feast we celebrate that God's saving love is offered to all people.

In the Gospel the wise men from the east find the Christ child by following the light of a star. These magi are foreigners, travelers from a different country. They are Gentiles who have never learned about the Law or the prophets. However, they find their way to Jesus and honor him. The wise men follow a star, which leads them to Jesus Christ, the light of salvation.

Questions for Deeper Reflection

- How do the magi honor Jesus?
- Why do the magi honor Jesus?
- How do you honor Jesus?

[If you are not going to continue with the doctrinal discussion, proceed to the Gospel in Life.]



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Doctrinal Discussion Starters

Universal Offer of Salvation

Today's feast of the Epiphany proclaims that God's gift of salvation is for all people. The word Epiphany means to show forth or to make visible. On Epiphany we are reminded that Jesus, the Savior of the world was made visible to the magi. Jesus welcomes all those who seek him.

The Catholic Church believes that all are meant to share in God's love. The Church works throughout the world to spread the good news about Jesus.

- How does the Church work to spread the good news about Jesus?
- What does Epiphany mean?
- Who helps you find your way to Jesus?

The Gospel in Life

How can you honor Jesus this week?



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