

WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR

VISUAL AIDS

- > Crib, including the figures of the wise men.
- > Large silver star.
- > Something gold: a ring, bracelet, chain.
- > Incense and thurible.
- > Perfume and hand cream.
- > Star shape cut-outs.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Say/sing together:

**Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star
and have come to worship him.
Alleluia!**

A reading from the Good News given to us by Matthew.
Glorify to you, Lord.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the new king?' they asked. 'We have seen his star and have come to worship him.' Of course, Herod the King was very worried to hear about a new king. He pretended

DISCUSSION

Have the children mime the Gospel. What were the gifts that the wise men offered Jesus?
Gold: show the golden items, and explain gold's significance as meaning wealth, power. By giving Jesus gold they were saying 'We recognise that you are worth more than all the money in the world; we recognise your power.'

Frankincense: burn some incense in the thurible and let the children smell the smoke. Explain that this was used as a sign of respect for important people. By giving this the wise men were worshipping Jesus.
Myrrh: using the perfume and cream, explain to the children that this was used especially for anointing the body after death. Giving this is a symbol of Jesus' death and resurrection.

SHARING

Gather the children round the crib, and invite them to say if they can see anything different
- the wise men;
- the star.

Have the children explain the star and the wise men in their own words.

Lead them to see that the star revealed Jesus to the wise men.

Explain that 'Epiphany' is the feast of Jesus being revealed, or shown, to the whole world.

he was interested in finding the child, and asked the wise men to tell him whatever they could find out, so that he too could go and worship him.

As soon as they left Herod's palace, they saw the star again. It led them to the place where Jesus was. They went in, and worshipped him. Then they offered him presents of gold, frankincense and myrrh. An angel had warned them in a

dream about King Herod, so they went back to their own country by a different way, and without telling Herod where to find Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ACTIVITIES

- > Give out the star shapes, reminding the children that the star on the Christmas tree reminds us of the star that led the wise men to Jesus.
- > Have the children write or draw on them:
either, how they will be wise this year, and how they will find Jesus;

or, how they will be little stars shining for Jesus so that others can find him.

