

## Seeking the Saviour (Matthew 2:1-12) Epiphany

(Make a simple map from your starting place to two other places in your room. This will be your "Seeking the Saviour Map. Hide the star stickers somewhere in your room. Place a star sticker on your map for that place. Choose two other places where your map will take kids in your room. Then use symbols on your map to signify those two places, such as a book for a bookcase. After your map has three places on it, wad it up and unwad it to make it look more realistic.)

If we were planning to go visit someone in another town, we might first ask someone who knew how to get there to give us directions. They might give us some general directions and suggest the best roads to take. Another thing we might do is look at a map or use our GPS to show us exactly how to get where we want to go.

Today we have a map to help us seek or find something. (Show kids the map.) I have two things you need to do. #1: You will go with me to seek the star that is hiding in our room. And #2: Every time you hear me say the word "star," raise your hands and say "Shine, shine, bright star." Ready?

Let's look at our map and go to the first place. Where do you think we go based on this first picture?

(Lead children to that area.) After Jesus was born, some wise men, also called Magi, saw a star (Pause for kids to say "Shine, shine, bright star.") in the sky which they believed announced the birth of a king. They travelled to Jerusalem and began to ask, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star (Pause for kids to say "Shine, shine, bright star.") as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

(Have children look at the map and then go to the second area.) Herod heard about the Magi and their search for a king and he was deeply disturbed. So Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men and said to them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

(Have children look at the map and then go to the second area.) As you know, the wise men did not have a map to guide them to Bethlehem, but they had something even better — they had a star (Pause for kids to say "Shine, shine, bright star.") to guide them. So the wise men followed information that the priests had given to Herod and the star (Pause for kids to say "Shine, shine, bright star.") that God had given to guide them and it led them right to Jesus. When they found him, they gave him gifts and bowed down and worshiped him. (Matthew 2:1-12)

(Have children look at the map and then go to the third area to find the star. Give each child a star sticker when they find them.) Wise men, women, boys, and girls are still searching for Jesus. There are people who want to help -- people like pastors and Sunday school teachers. The Bible is the map and star (Pause for kids to respond say "Shine,

shine, bright star.”) that will lead to Jesus. All of us can read it every day to make sure we are headed in the right direction to find Jesus!

## **ACTIVITIES**

**STAR ART:** Give each child a BIG poster board yellow STAR cut out (or children can cut it out if time allows) and have them trace, draw or glue on typed out words for WISE MEN STILL SEEK THE SAVIOR! Hole punch the top and give children a ribbon to hang their star at home! One of the big STARS could be hung in the classroom or on the SS classroom door.

**DIRECTIONS GAME:** Blindfold a child and have the other class members try to take turns to give the blindfolded child DIRECTIONS to find a certain object in the designated area!!! The BIBLE should be the OBJECT to find.... and children can take turns giving a direction to step 4 stePs. forward; 2 stePs. to the left; 1 step forward; 8 stePs. back, etc. Take turns blindfolding as time allows. Discussion about "directions" in our story today!

**BIBLE TREASURE HUNT:** Wad up a section of a brown grocery bag to make it wrinkle. Draw a simple treasure map of your SS designated area for the children to follow the areas and numbers that they will follow as they "follow the map" to find the BIBLE object that has been hidden! Discuss getting GOD's directions for our lives! If the class is large enough, two maPs. could be written on and two teams could search for the TREASURE!

**STARS & CROWNS BIBLE VERSE HUNT:** Have children HUNT to find the stars and crowns with words from our Bible verse today that the children can FIND and then bring back and put in order on a large poster board. Hang the Bible verse poster on the wall for children to read and memorize. Making the Bible verse on both stars and crowns will make a fun and interesting poster for the children! (Bible verse could be shortened to "We saw his star in the east and have come to wroship him, Matthew 1:2).

**WORSHIP CROWN:** Have children cut out a copy of a crown and write WORSHIP THE KING with Matthew 1:1-2 written underneath those words. Children can wear their crown while studying the Bible story. Decorate the edges of the crown with many colorful stars stickers!!!