



Week 3
Wise Men
Matthew 2:1-12

Talk about it

Christmas is getting closer! The excitement is growing, and we can't wait for it to arrive. Can you tell me how many days there are until Christmas? Imagine having to wait **more** than a whole year for this day? What if you had waited your whole life? We are going to learn about some important people in the Christmas story. These people visited Jesus after he was born (probably more like when he was 2 years old), but we want to learn about them today because they teach us so much about hope! Let's open the Bible and read about a group of people who had waited their entire life with the hope that God would send a Savior to earth. We are going to open to the second part of the Bible, the New Testament, and look at the book of Matthew.

Read it

Matthew 2:1-12

Ask it

Have you ever had to wait for something that you were really excited for (Invite the kids to tell you a time they had to wait for something to happen). Was there ever a moment when you didn't know if it would actually happen? (Let your kids share if they were ever worried that it would not happen.)

When we wait for something good that we believe will happen, we have hope. We are excited for it to happen, and we look forward to it. The wise men had hope that God's promise would come true. They studied the sky and saw the sign that God had left. These men had hoped for a long time for Jesus to come. After Jesus was born, they traveled to see Jesus, to give him gifts, and to worship Him.

God kept His promise to send Jesus for us. We have true hope that Jesus is powerful and completely forgives us from our sin when we respond to Him in faith. One day, Jesus will come again to make all things new.

Sing it

"O Come Let Us Adore Him" (don't forget your egg shakers!)

Do it

- Place the HOPE candle (purple) on your magnetic wreath.
- **Paper Chain** Look at a calendar and count how many days until Christmas. Make a paper chain (7) for the 7 sleeps until Christmas by:
 - Make a loop and either tape it or staple it together.
 - Take the next strip of paper and interlock the paper link to the previous one to create a chain link with tape/staple. Continue to do so until the 'last' one.
 - For your last link (which will actually be your first loop at the top) cut a slit close to the bottom of the Happy Birthday Jesus plate and slide the last piece of paper you have into the slit and staple/tape the 2 ends together!
 - Display your countdown, remove one link each day, and be reminded of the HOPE that we can have for the greatest gift--Jesus!
 - Talk about what you are hoping for on Christmas. Discuss that you might not get everything you want--but we know we are already getting the greatest gift--Jesus!



Pray it

Take some time to pray as a family and ask God that He would give you an opportunity to share the hope He has given you in this season.

God, thank You for giving us hope by sending Your Son for us. Please help us remember that You will finish what You have begun in each of us through Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.

*Devotion taken from Lifeway Kids Advent Guide 2022



Extension Activities

- Paint or color wise men coloring sheets (search: Free printable wise men coloring sheet)
- HOPE Activity: Use this activity to help your child understand that putting our trust in Jesus gives us hope.
 - Tell your child you are going to play a game of hide-and-seek with a toy. Ask him to choose a special toy, and reassure your child that he can trust you to hide his toy in a safe place.
 - Choose a hiding place that is unlikely to be discovered without your help. When your child has searched for a while and seems ready to give up the hunt, offer to help him. With verbal clues, lead your child to find his hidden toy.
 - As you celebrate together, thank your child for trusting you during the game. Explain that when he believed you would keep his toy safe, he was showing hope. He didn't worry about his toy because he had hope that he would get it back safely. Just as your child trusted you to take care of a favorite toy, so we can trust God to take care of us