



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

Light your purple HOPE candle and sing "O Come Let Us Adore Him"

Do it

Building Blocks

- Have each of your children 'spell' out the word HOPE using the red, green, and white building blocks. (see picture for example with the word JOY)
- Maybe make it a competition and time each person in your family--who can build the fastest? Or give each person 2 minutes to build and see who can get the most letters formed?
- See what other things you can build out of the blocks!
 - Maybe assign each family member to build something from the Nativity story
 - See if the family members can guess what they built
- Ask each other what you are **hoping** for in the coming year.



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

• Hope Activity #1

- Parents, make plans for a fun Christmas activity this week that you know your children will love.
 - Ideas:
 - Make hot cocoa and drive around to look at Christmas lights
 - Make Christmas cookies together (licking beaters brings JOY!)
 - Go visit a special friend or family member one evening
 - Have a movie night
 - At the end of your family Advent time, promise your kids that you are going to do something special together to celebrate Advent—something they will love—but don't tell them what or when. You can even write it down in a sealed envelope and label it "HOPE."
 - As the days go by, remind them of your promise and give them hints as to what it might be. Let their expectations and excitement grow throughout the week.
 - Use this opportunity to remind them of God's promise to send a Rescuer and the anticipation God's people felt as they waited. Just as the people in the Old Testament waited with hope for Jesus, we are waiting for His return!
- **Paint or color wise men coloring sheets** (search: Free printable wise men coloring sheet)
- **Acrostic Poem:** Write an acrostic poem with WISE MEN or STAR
 - An acrostic poem is written by writing the letters of a word going down, one under the other, and writing a word or phrase that describes the word next to each letter. Make sure the description starts with that letter!
- **Build a Lego nativity set** <https://frugalfun4boys.com/lego-nativity-set-instructions/>
- **Hope Activity #2:** Use this activity to help your children recognize the hope they have when they trust God to guide them.
 - Using books or pieces of cardboard, create a "steppingstone" path from one side of your living room to the other. Add small challenges along the way, perhaps a chair to climb over or narrow "balance beams" made of masking tape. As you work, talk about the obstacles we face in life: moving to a different school, making new friends, being sick.
 - Now place a blindfold over your child's eyes. Explain that often we can't see how to get through the obstacles in our lives. We may say that we "hope" to find our way through, but what are our chances?
 - Take your child's hand and guide him along each step of the path, explaining that we can face the challenges of life because we know that God is with us. Even if we can't always see where we're headed, our hope comes from knowing that God directs our steps.