

Pre-Lesson Downloads -

#19 The Magi - *Travel from far away to worship the child Jesus and bring Him gifts*

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Also find our online worship services at the same site.

Dear Families: There has been a lot of discussion on this part of the Christmas story. Many Biblical scholars believe these men were the scientists of their time that we would call astronomers, who watched the sky. There is no mention of how many came, just that they brought three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They were probably accompanied by many servants. Gold is the precious metal we know today, but was associated with kings in Bible times. Frankincense is a gum resin from trees found east of Israel and was used in those times in worship rites, like incense. Myrrh is another gum resin from a tree. It was mixed into the holy oil to anoint kings and high priests, but also used for burial rights. Some Biblical scholars associate each gift with a religious meaning: gold-kingship and virtue; frankincense-prayer and worship; myrrh-suffering and death. These are all guesses, based on customs of the time. The Bible does not specifically state the significance of each gift. God Bless!

Bible Text: Matthew 2:1-12; 13-15; 19-23

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?" For we observed His star at its rising, and have come to pay Him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found Him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay Him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid Him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy Him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and His mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called My Son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead". . . he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

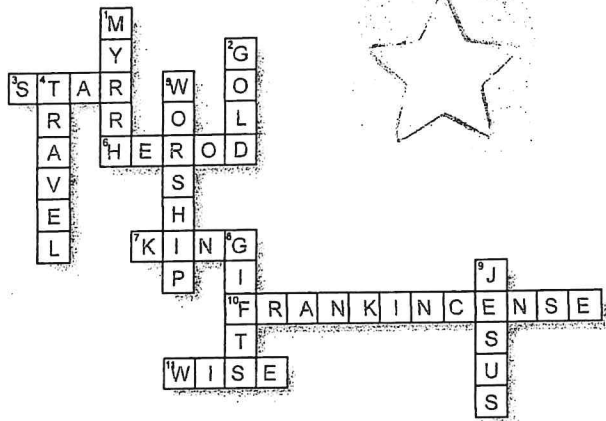
Bible Verse:

*"We saw His star in the East and have come to worship Him." Matthew 2:2b
New American Standard Version*

Materials:

*1 Magi coloring page *1 Joseph, Mary and Jesus flee to Egypt *2 pages for the Match Game
 *1 crossword puzzle *1 code page *1 craft idea page – Making a small poster: Cut out star, add glitter using glue. Color small pictures. Place pictures in the correct chronological order and glue to a piece of dark blue or black construction paper.

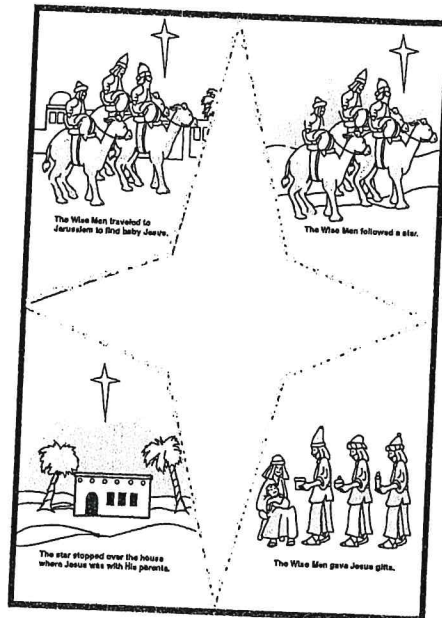
Answers to puzzles:



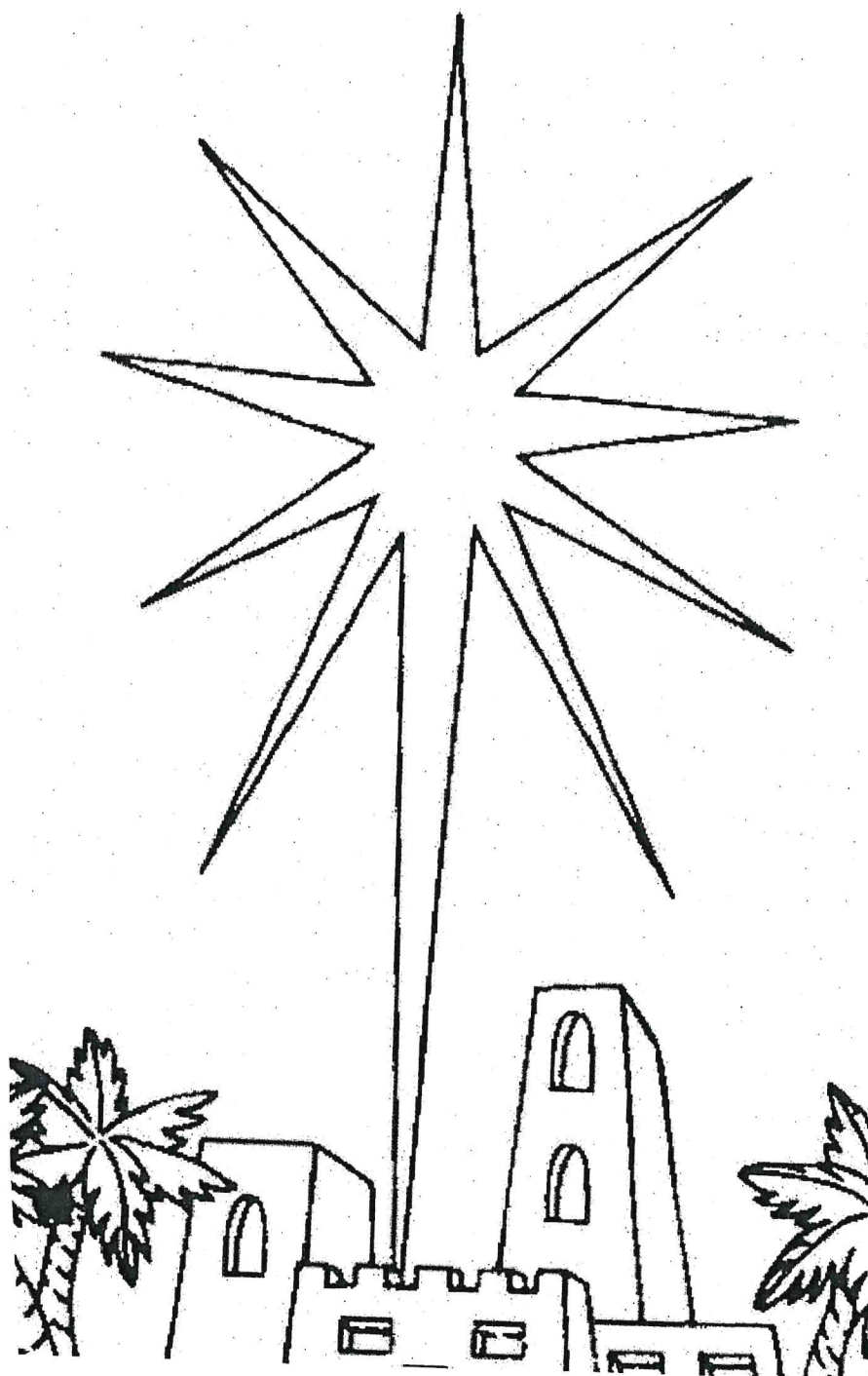
E	A	S	T					
5	1	19	20					
G	I	F	T	S				
7	9	6	20	19				
H	E	R	O	D				
8	5	18	15	4				
M	A	R	Y					
13	1	18	25					
B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M
2	5	20	8	12	5	8	5	13

What did the wise men follow to find Jesus?

A	S	T	A	R
1	19	20	1	18



Picture Idea for the Verse:

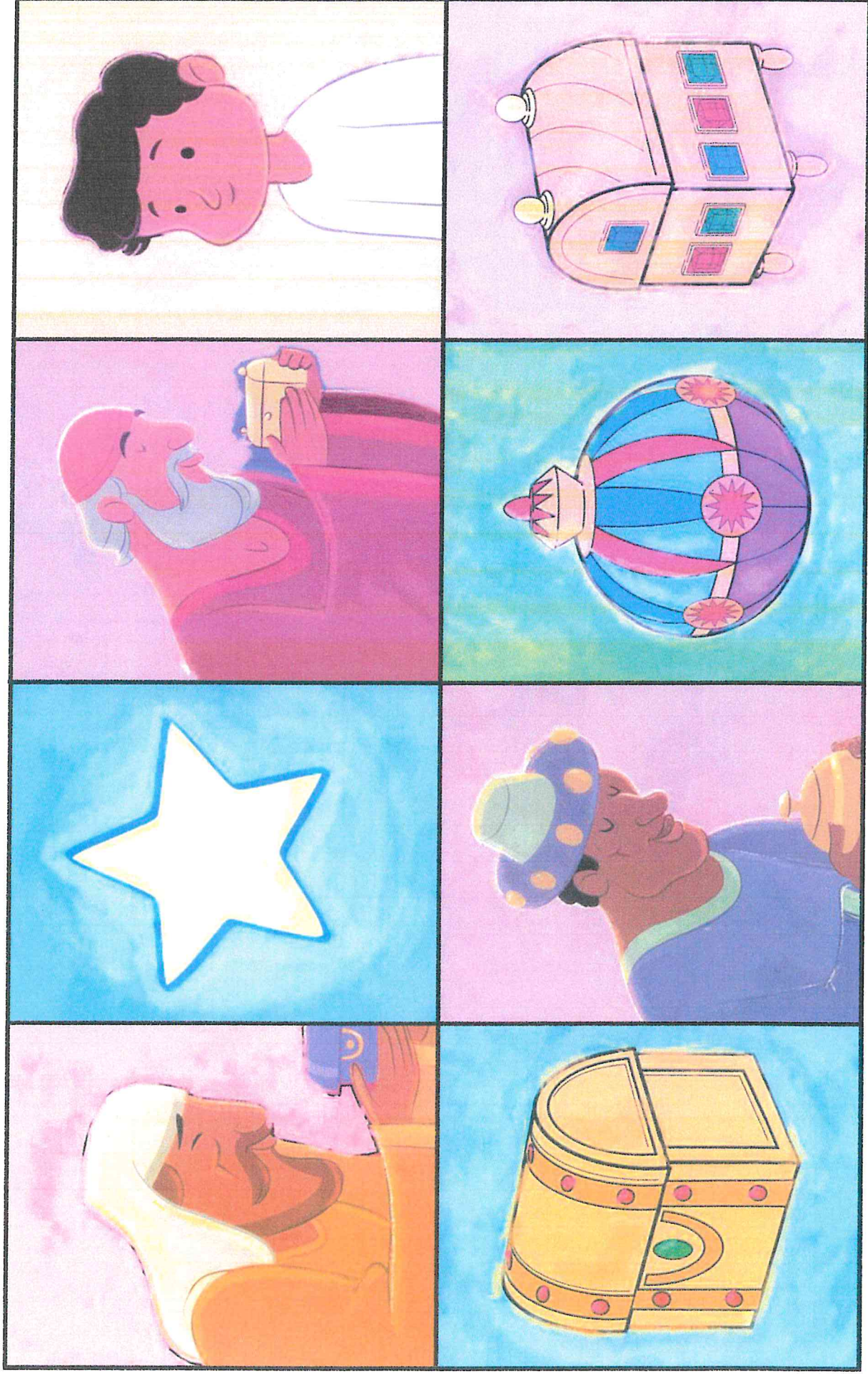






Wise Men Match Game

Print two sets of the cards. Cut out the cards along the black lines. Mix up the cards and lay them out face down in rows. Turn over any two cards at a time. If the pictures match, remove them from the table. This counts as one set. If you make a match, you may take another turn. If they do not match, turn them back over and let the next person try. The person with the most sets wins!

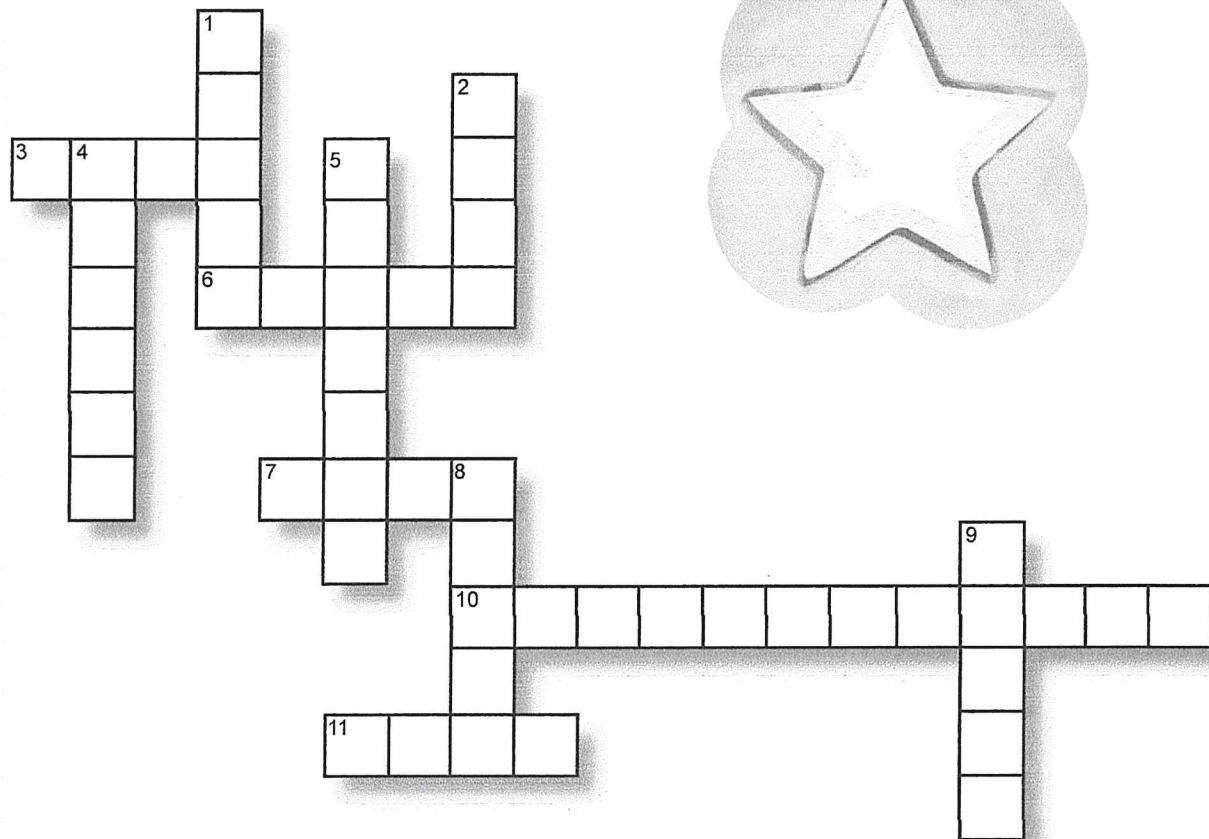


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Wise Men Crossword Puzzle



Across

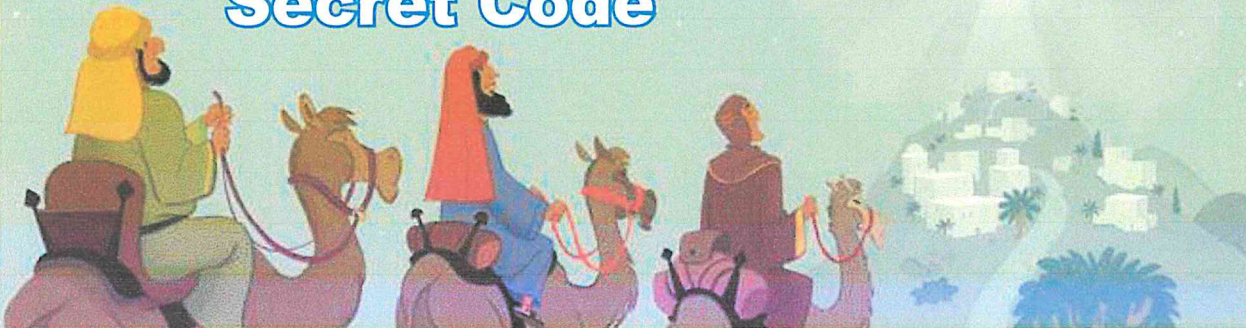
3. It guided the wise Men.
6. The ruler of Judea when Jesus was born
7. A monarch or ruler
10. One of the wise men's gifts
11. Full of knowledge or experience

Down

1. The wise men gave Jesus this.
2. Another gift to Jesus
4. Journey to a different place
5. Praise or adore
8. The wise men gave three _____ to Jesus.
9. The wise men went to Bethlehem to see the Baby _____.

The Wise Men's Story

Secret Code



Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

Code key

A 1	J 10	S 19
B 2	K 11	T 20
C 3	L 12	U 21
D 4	M 13	V 22
E 5	N 14	W 23
F 6	O 15	X 24
G 7	P 16	Y 25
H 8	Q 17	Z 26
I 9	R 18	

5 1 19 20

7 9 6 20 19

8 5 18 15 4

13 1 18 25

2 5 20 8 12 5 8 5 13

What did the wise men follow to find Jesus?

1 19 20 1 18

M

ake a poster to tell about the Wise Men following a star to find baby Jesus.

5

