



STORY TIME

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 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.”

9 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. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 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.



DIRECTIONS

Choose one activity out of each section on the next page. When you complete your chosen activity in a section, place a sticker on your sticker chart.

Having fun and don't want to stop? Do more than one activity in your favorite section(s)!



REFLECTION SECTION

Questions for Grown-Ups

1. The wise men followed a star. What is your "star?" What guides you through life? Is it your faith? Another value such as peace or hope? Commitment to a goal that feels like a calling? How might those values feel like a "gift?"
2. Sometimes life gets messy. We lose track of our star (values) and forget to align our life to it. What currently stands in your way from following your star to Jesus? Crazy schedules, over commitment, fear, something else?
3. Sometimes you discover that following the star to Jesus is leading you to reconsider some deeply held beliefs. When you have had to reckon with yourself, admit that you were off course, and recalibrate with your star?

Questions for Young Disciples

Who do you look to for guidance? Who teaches you right from wrong? Who teaches you about your faith? You follow these important people just like the wise men followed the star. As you grow, you start to question what your values and beliefs are. Sometimes you even start to follow your friends that can lead you down the wrong path. When it was a time in your life you started to follow the wrong star? How did you get back on track? Have you ever helped a friend get back to following their 'star'?

Questions for Younger Disciples

The wise men knew that they needed to follow the star. We know that we are supposed to follow our parents, teachers, and other caring adults. Even though we knew this, sometimes we don't. When was a time that you didn't listen to your caring adult? How did you remember the next time to listen to them? Always remember that Jesus is with us even when we don't make good choices and that Jesus always loves you.



IMAGINATION STATION

Option One:

Complete today's Wise Men Craft.

Option Two:

Color the Wise Men Coloring Page.

Option Three:

Take digital photos of favorite gifts. Maybe they are objects that were presents, or maybe various parts of nature feel like a gift.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Option One:

Take a walk without electronics and look for the "gifts" of creation. Listen, look, touch, and smell what is around you.

Activity for Young Families:

Gather outside to talk about what guides your family in life. Do you have rules that your family follows? How does your family's faith guide you? How are rules, values and traditions a "gift?" How do they guide you like the star guided the Wise Men? Are there any new rules or faith practices that your family would like to try?



MISSION MOMENT

Option One:

Share something from your VBS week on your own social media or paste in your front window for people to see. Tell people what VBS has meant to you. Maybe even invite them to worship!

Option Two:

Ask someone about their "guiding star." What are their values? Give them the gift of your time and attention by listening closely.

Activity for Families:

Gift some things to others! Go inside and find at least five things that you could give away, donate, or regift. If you are giving the things to a friend, tell them why you thought they would like it.

You're done! Be sure to head inside and celebrate your progress on your Sticker Chart, and then let us know what you discovered in the Facebook group!

VBS FOR BACKYARDS Week Five: Following the Star

No popsicle sticks required.



Toilet Paper Wise Men

You need:

- Toilet paper rolls
- Paint
- Optional: tin foil, fabric scraps, googly eyes, pens, wool for hair, felt, glue, gems

Step One: Paint toilet paper rolls, painting the top $\frac{1}{4}$ a skin color and the bottom $\frac{3}{4}$ a color of your choosing for the 'clothes' if you are using fabric scraps. If you are using wool for hair, attach the wool at this time if you are not using wool. Paint one or two toilet paper tubes golden if you are not using the tin foil option.



Step Two: If you are using fabric to 'dress' your wise men, find scraps of fabric to use while the rolls are drying. When they are dry, glue the 'clothes' to the rolls.

Step Three: If you are using wool for hair, drape it over the toilet paper roll and use glue to attach. Your wise men can also have beards or have no hair! The choice is yours.



Step Four: Cut the crowns out of the golden toilet paper rolls and, if you are using tin foil, cover them in tin foil. Glue them onto the other toilet paper rolls.

Step Five: Once they are dry, attach gems, googly eyes, etc. as you would like or draw on facial features, etc.



The Three Wise Men Following the Star