

# LESSON 4: WISE MEN WORSHIP KING JESUS

Leader Guide for One Room

Classroom: My One Room Classroom

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 Matthew 2:1-18

06/26/2016

## Teachers Dig In

### Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Matthew 2:1-18
- In This Passage: In today's Bible passage, a group of wise men who've studied the stars notice an unusual star and follow it to Jerusalem, where Israel's king lived. They're looking for the newborn king who had caused the star to rise. When the wise men find Jesus, they worship him. Hearing of this, King Herod wants to kill Jesus, but God leads both the wise men and Jesus' family to keep him safe.
- Bible Point: Jesus is the king.
- Summary Verse: "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him" (Matthew 2:2).

### Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: Jesus is the king. Although your kids may not live in a country ruled by a king, they're probably very familiar with the concept of kings, queens, and princesses. Kids need to know that Jesus is set apart even from an earthly king—he's the king of the world...forever!
- Think About: What would it be like to live in a country ruled by King Herod? How would it make a difference to know that Jesus is king over Herod? What difference does it make to know that Jesus is the king over the hard things in your life?

### Dig In to Prayer

- Write things that seem to rule in your kids' lives (besides God). Cross each one out as you pray that your kids will see how Jesus is king over everything else.

### Quick Tip

- Bookmark the Bible passage in a few Bibles before class each week. Kids who aren't as familiar with the Bible will be able to easily find the passage.

## This Lesson at a Glance



### OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### MUSIC VIDEO

Kids sing songs of praise to God.

#### Supplies

- “You Are the Messiah” (Matthew 16:16) music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “He Loved Us First” music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “I Believe” (John 1:12) music video (watch or download [here](#))



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids follow star clues to bring gifts to King Jesus.

#### Supplies

- Bible
- 5 medium or large glow-in-the-dark stars
- permanent marker
- index cards (1 per child, plus 3 for you)
- pens (1 per child)
- box with lid
- gold wrapping paper
- version of “We Three Kings” song
- music player

#### Easy Prep

- Number the stars 1 through 5.
- Hide the stars around your room with the numbers facedown. Have the numbers lead in progression around the room.
- Wrap a box and lid with gold wrapping paper.
- Write one each of the following on the three index cards: “Gold,” “Myrrh,” and “Frankincense.” Put them in the box.



### TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kids watch a video and discuss what it would be like to be king or queen.

#### Supplies

- “Kings and Kingdoms” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



## LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids worship Jesus in a variety of ways.

### Supplies

- music player
- worship song
- paper
- crayons



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids race to bow.

### Supplies

- yellow paper

### Easy Prep

- Cut a large star from the paper.



## CRAFT

Kids scratch colorful stars into a black night.

### Supplies

- several bright-colored crayons and 1 black crayon per child
- large paper clips (1 per child)
- 4x6 index cards (1 per child)
- paper (optional)

### Easy Prep

- Make a sample card ahead of time.

*\*Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



### Welcome

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## Supplies

- Bible

## Welcome

Thank kids for coming.

Just for fun, have kids give a fist bump to four friends.

Make announcements.

Introduce new kids.

Celebrate birthdays by lining up people with birthdays in the upcoming week and having everyone else run by to high-five them.

Collect the offering.

## Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Jesus is the king**. Today we'll learn that the wise men followed a star to find a newborn king—Jesus—and they worshipped him when they found him.

## Share

Tell kids something about a king or queen *you* know of from a movie or a book.

Have kids form pairs and share with their partner something about a king or queen *they* know of from a movie or a book.

## Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **The Bible isn't an ordinary book; it's God's special book. The Bible is one way God talks to us. God is here right now, ready to talk to you.**

Pray, thanking Jesus that he's the king.



## MUSIC VIDEO

[10 min]

### You Are the Messiah

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#### Supplies

- “You Are the Messiah” (Matthew 16:16) music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “He Loved Us First” music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “I Believe” (John 1:12) music video (watch or download [here](#))

#### Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



### Supplies

- Bible
- 5 medium or large glow-in-the-dark stars
- permanent marker
- index cards (1 per child, plus 3 for you)
- pens (1 per child)
- box with lid
- gold wrapping paper
- version of “We Three Kings” song
- music player

### Easy Prep

- Number the stars 1 through 5.
- Hide the stars around your room with the numbers facedown. Have the numbers lead in progression around the room.
- Wrap a box and lid with gold wrapping paper.
- Write one each of the following on the three index cards: “Gold,” “Myrrh,” and “Frankincense.” Put them in the box.

### Think About Being King

Have kids sit on the floor in five small groups.

Say: **Before we dig in to today’s Bible story, let me ask you something.**

Ask: • **If you were named king of our country—right now, this very day—what new law would you pass first? Maybe you’d say it’s now the law to have ice cream with every meal!**

Give kids a few minutes to talk, and then ask for several ideas.

Say: **Wow! Those are some incredible new laws! But you might have to wait a while until you’re old enough to be a king. Or not. The king in today’s Bible story was a lot younger than you!**

### Search for Stars

Open your Bible to Matthew 2:1-18, and show kids the passage.

Say: **Today we’re discovering that Jesus is the king. The Bible tells us that Jesus was born during the reign of a guy named King Herod. We’ll hear more about him in a minute. Around that same time, some wise men from eastern lands began a journey to Jerusalem.**

Ask: • **What do you usually take when you go on a long trip?**

Say: **I always try to remember a map so I know where I'm going. But the wise men didn't use a map. They used something even better!**

**Let's take our own journey. Everyone hop up!** Dim the lights as kids stand. **There are five stars hidden in this room. With your group, try to find a star. When you do, turn it over to show the number on the back. Then lay it back down with the number facing up.** As kids search, play "We Three Kings." Make sure each group finds at least one star. When kids have found all the stars, have everyone sit down near you, and stop the song.

### **Huddle With Herod**

Say: **Good job finding the stars! Did you recognize that song? It talks about three kings following a star to find baby Jesus. But, you know, the Bible doesn't actually tell us how many men there were—and it doesn't say they were kings!**

**We do know that the wise men followed a star all the way to Jerusalem. When they got there, they went to see King Herod. Listen to what they said to him.** Read aloud Matthew 2:2.

**Herod probably thought, "Wait a minute! I'm the king! And they're looking for a new king? No way!"**

Huddle kids together in a tight circle and lower your voice. **Herod called in his priests and religious leaders. He asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" They said the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.**

**Then Herod called in the wise men and said, "Go to Bethlehem and carefully search for the child. When you find him, come back and tell me where he is so I can worship him, too." But that was a lie! Herod wanted to find Jesus to get rid of him!**

### **Bring Gifts to Jesus**

Say: **The wise men headed for Bethlehem, following the star again.** Have kids stand and follow the stars in succession, sitting near the fifth star.

**In Bethlehem, the star stopped right over where Jesus was! The wise men went inside and saw Jesus with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him.** Have everyone kneel and briefly bow their heads to the ground. **Then they opened the treasure chest they had brought and gave Jesus three gifts.** Bring out your wrapped box and reach inside. Take out and read the three cards.

**The Bible doesn't say exactly *why* the wise men gave Jesus these particular gifts. But they were precious and valuable gifts, fit for a king. The wise men knew that Jesus is the king. They believed he was the king of the Jews during that time. *We know* he's the king of God's kingdom, forever and ever.**

**The wise men gave Jesus gifts, and so can we!** Give each child an index card and pen. **On your card, write or draw a gift you can give Jesus this week. Maybe you'll sing a praise song to him, or maybe you'll sit and just listen to**

**him.** When kids have finished writing or drawing, have them place their cards in the treasure chest as you pray, thanking Jesus for being our king.



## Supplies

- “Kings and Kingdoms” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

### Discuss and Watch "Kings and Kingdoms"

Ask the group: • **Can anyone name a country that has a king or a queen ruling there?**

- **How do you think someone gets to be a king or queen?**

Say: **The Bible tells us in Revelation 19:16 that Jesus is the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. Jesus is the king of everyone and everything. Let’s watch a video about kings and kingdoms.**

Watch “Kings and Kingdoms.”

Ask: • **What do you think of when you hear the word *kingdom*?** Allow several kids to call out their answers to the group.

Say: **Find a partner, and talk about this question: If you were king or queen, what would *your* kingdom be like?** Allow about two minutes for kids to share, and then continue as a group.

- Ask: • **How do you know if a king is a good king or a bad king?**

Say: **Angels came to tell the shepherds about Jesus. They don’t do that for just anyone. In fact, they’ve never come to tell about any other king in history—only Jesus! After the shepherds visited baby Jesus, they had no doubt he truly was the king. They just had to tell everyone.**

**Most of us will never get a chance to talk to a human king, but we can talk to Jesus, the king of everything, anytime we want. Isn’t that amazing? Think about what you would like to say to the person who is the king of everything. Would you want to ask him something, or kneel down and honor him, or give him something? It’s up to you what you want to say. I’m going to give you a minute of silence for you to privately talk to the king—Jesus.**

After a minute of silent prayer, say “Amen.”



## Worship Jesus Today

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### Supplies

- music player
- worship song
- paper
- crayons

### Choose Your Worship

Say: **The wise men knew that people would worship King Jesus. They knew Jesus was king of the Jewish people. But we know that Jesus is the king over the whole earth, and we can show *our* love and respect to him, too. We can worship him by bringing him gifts like the wise men did. We can also show how much we love Jesus while singing or praying.**

Invite kids to share any other ways they worship Jesus.

Say: **Let's worship our King now. You can choose whether you want to sing along with the song, pray silently, or worship Jesus in a different way, such as drawing him a picture.**

Turn on the song, and allow a few minutes for kids to quietly worship Jesus. Invite preschoolers to join you in singing.

Close in prayer: **God, thank you for sending Jesus to be the greatest king of all. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank the kids for coming, and tell them to remember in the upcoming week that Jesus is the king.



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### Race to Be Humble

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#### Supplies

- yellow paper

#### Easy Prep

- Cut a large star from the paper.

#### Race to Bow Down

Say: **The wise men went looking for Jesus, the newborn king. When they found him, they showed he was king by bowing and worshipping him. People bow out of respect or to make an important person physically higher than they are. In Bible times, bowing sometimes meant lying facedown on the floor.**

Read Psalm 95:6-7.

Ask: • **What do you think *worship* means?**

• **What are some ways you can worship God?**

Say: **Let's play a game to help us think about worshipping Jesus the king.**

Have kids stand in a circle with as much space between them as possible (about two arm-lengths is ideal). Try to alternate younger kids and older kids when possible.

Stand to the side of the circle, and say: **Walk around the circle, and watch for me to put the star in the air. When I hold up the star, lie on your stomach as quickly as possible and stretch your hands out in front of you.**

Have kids start walking.

Raise the star above your head, and watch to see who is last to lie down. Have that child leave the circle. If there's not much space between kids in the circle, have them face the inside of the circle when they lie down to avoid hitting or kicking each other.

Continue the game until one child is left.

Have all the kids get back in a circle, and repeat the game.

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **Explain whether you think what we did in this game was worship.**

Say: ***Worship* is putting someone else above us. But just because we were bowing in the game doesn't mean we were worshipping. When we worship, what's in our hearts is more important than what we do. Jesus is the king, and we worship to show him that we love him.**

Pray as kids wrap their arms around themselves, thanking Jesus that he's king and telling him how much you love him.



## Surprise Star Cards

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### Supplies

- several bright-colored crayons and 1 black crayon per child
- large paper clips (1 per child)
- 4x6 index cards (1 per child)
- paper (optional)

### Easy Prep

- Make a sample card ahead of time.

### Talk About Heaven

Gather kids around a table or some other hard work surface.

Hand each child an index card. Set out the colorful crayons.

Say: **Jesus is the king, but he's also God's Son. Jesus left his home with God to come to earth to shine God's love.**

Ask: • **What words do you think of when you think of living with God?**

As kids talk about God, have them use the bright crayons to color one side of their cards completely. For younger kids, you may want to put paper underneath their cards in case they color over the edges. Encourage kids to press down hard to make a thick layer of color. When the cards are filled, gather the crayons.

### Talk About Dark Times

Say: **Your cards are bright and colorful—great reminders of the joy and light that surround God! But life on earth isn't always like that. Sometimes life is dark and difficult.**

Ask: • **What kinds of things do you think about when you think of hardships here on earth?**

As kids talk, have them use black crayons to cover up the bright colors on their cards. Encourage kids to press down hard enough to cover the bright colors completely. When the cards are completely black, gather the crayons.

### Make a Star

Say: **When Jesus was born, God's chosen people were going through a really hard time. They didn't have a leader who followed God. They knew that God had promised to send a king...but where was he? Hold up your sample card. Life seemed pretty dark and hopeless.**

Unbend a paper clip and use it to scratch away the black crayon, etching a star on the card.

Say: **A unique star appeared in the night sky. Wise men saw the star and understood what it meant—the king had been born. Jesus is the king!**

Let kids etch their own large stars, plus smaller stars to create a night sky. Talk about how Jesus is the king for us *today*, and his love and power are mightier than any darkness in our lives.



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