



## SUPPLIES

*The following items will be provided for you to use with your kids during the Small Group segments:*

- Gift bow
- Bubbles
- Penny (or play coin)
- 10 Giving cards
- Give-O-Meter poster
- Take-home sheets (one per child)

**SMALL GROUP: GRADE 2-3**

**Week 3**

# THE WISE GUYS



## Key Concept

Giving to others brings extraordinary joy!

## Bible Summary *Matthew 2:1-12*

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Wise Men from the East saw a star marking His birth and followed it. When they arrived in Jerusalem, they asked King Herod where to find Jesus. Herod told them to go to Bethlehem and when they found the child, to come back and tell him where Jesus was. Herod was jealous and intended to harm Jesus. The Wise Men found Jesus and gave Him gifts to worship Him. God warned them in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their home by another route.

## Bible Verse *Acts 20:35 (NLT)*

“You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”



## LEADER PREPARATION

*Thanks for choosing to serve with us. The supplies listed above are provided for you, but there are some important things you can do in advance. Prior to the lesson, prepare your mind by reviewing the material and prepare your heart by praying for the children God will place in your Small Group.*

# SMALL GROUP CONNECTION

*This short connection time happens right after the Welcome and Introduction. When instructed, turn to your Small Group and engage them in conversation. The goal is to make sure everyone feels comfortable and welcome. You will pass around the gift bow to help control which child talks. Be sure everyone gets a chance to share. Keep an eye on the countdown video, which will signal when it's time to refocus on the Teacher. Don't waste any time moving your Small Group; simply stay seated in the Large Group area.*

**LEADER:** I am so glad you are all here! Today, we are going to talk about giving. What is the best gift you've ever received? I'm going to pass around this gift bow [show kids], and I want you to tell us about your best gift. Who gave you the gift? How did you feel when you got this great gift?

It feels great to receive gifts. But did you know that it can also feel great to give them? Today we are going to hear a true story about some guys who gave really great gifts!

# SMALL GROUP SHARING

*This sharing time happens right after the Teacher's Personal Application Story. When instructed, turn again to your Small Group. This time, pass around the bottle of bubbles. As each child holds the bubbles, he or she can share about a time they felt joyful. After sharing, the child can blow a bubble. Keep an eye on the countdown video, which will signal when it's time to refocus on the Teacher.*

**LEADER:** What do you think the word "joy" means? [Kids respond.] When you have joy inside, it means you feel really happy or super cheerful. Can you think of a time when you felt joyful? I'll pass this bottle of bubbles around the circle, and when you get them, you can tell us about a time you felt joyful. When you're done, you can try to blow a big bubble!

[Pass the bubbles around the circle and encourage kids to share their joyful stories.]



That was great! There are a lot of things to feel joyful about. Today we are going to hear a true story about some guys who also felt joyful. Let's check it out.

## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

*This activity time happens at the end of the Large Group teaching. If your Small Group has a designated seating area somewhere else in the room, move them now. If not, simply stay seated together in the Large Group area.*

*The following activities will engage your group for 10-15 minutes. It's okay if you don't complete every activity; the priority is helping your kids process and apply what they learned today. Parents will pick up their children from your group at the end of the class.*

### >> COIN REVIEW

**LEADER:** Today we heard the true story of the Wise Men. How do you think the Wise Men felt when they first saw Baby Jesus? [*Kids respond.*] How would you have felt if you got to see Baby Jesus laying in the manger? [*Kids respond.*]

Let's remember the story by flipping this coin. [*Show coin.*] When I point to you, flip the coin in the air. If it lands on heads, I will ask you a question about the Bible story. If it lands on tails, you get to repeat the Bible verse while doing something fun.

[*Give the coin to a child and have them flip it. After a question is answered, pass the coin to another child. If the coin lands tails, encourage the child to say the Bible verse while doing one of the actions listed below. Continue until all of the review questions on the next page have been answered.*]

#### Review Questions

1. What did the Wise Men see in the sky? (a star)
2. Whose birth did the star announce? (Jesus)
3. The Wise Men followed the star to a place called \_\_\_\_\_?  
(Jerusalem)



4. When King Herod heard about Jesus' birth, how did he feel? (*angry, jealous*)
5. What did King Herod tell the Wise Men to do? (*find Jesus, and then come back and report*)
6. How did the Wise Men feel when they saw Jesus? (*happy, excited, joyful*)
7. How many gifts did the Wise Men give to Jesus? (*three*)
8. What were the three gifts the Wise Men gave to Jesus? (*gold, frankincense, and myrrh*)
9. Why did the Wise Men give gifts to Jesus? (*to worship and honor Him*)

**Bible Verse Actions**

1. Whisper
2. Shout
3. Hop on one foot
4. Do a jumping jack
5. Close your eyes
6. Use a deep voice
7. Pretend to bounce a basketball
8. Spin around
9. Blink really fast

Great job! The Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus because they loved Him and wanted to worship and honor Him. It brought them extraordinary joy to give. Let's practice saying our Bible verse together. [Repeat the verse aloud with the kids several times.]

"You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35 (NLT)

**>> THE GIVE-O-METER**

**LEADER:** What do you think that verse means for us? [*Kids respond.*] Just like the Wise Men gave to Jesus, we can give to others. What do you think—is it easy to give to others, or is it hard to give? [*Kids respond.*] Sometimes it can be easy to give to others, and sometimes



it can be really hard. Do you think Jesus wants us to give to others, even when it is hard? [*Kids respond.*]

Jesus wants us to give to others all the time. [*Place the Give-O-Meter Poster in the center of the circle and pick up ten Giving Cards.*] This is our Give-O-Meter! If I hand you one of these Giving Cards, I want you to read it to the group. If you think it would be easy to give in the situation listed on the card, place it on the left side of the Give-O-Meter. If you think it would be hard to give, place it on the right side of the Give-O-Meter.

[*Hand out the Giving Cards one at a time. Encourage the children to decide where to place the card on the Give-O-Meter.*]

Look at our Give-O-Meter! Some things are really easy to give, and some things are really hard to give. God will always help us give to others. He will give us strength to give even when it's really hard. This week, we can give to our friends, our family, and even our neighbors. Don't forget that giving to others brings extraordinary joy.

## CLOSING PRAYER

*End your time by praying for the children in your Small Group. You can simply pray the prayer below or ask the children for specific prayer requests.*

**LEADER:** Dear God, thank You for giving the Wise Men the strength to do something extraordinary! We are thankful for the Christmas story and that You sent Your Son, Jesus. Please help us share the Good News with everyone. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

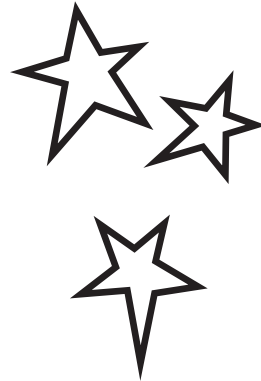
*Give each child a take-home sheet and continue to engage them in conversation until their parents arrive.*





If you've reviewed the detailed lesson and are comfortable with what you will say and do, simply take this Quick Script with you as a reminder for each segment.

**SMALL GROUP: GRADE 2-3**  
**Week 3 THE WISE GUYS**



# QUICK SCRIPT

• **Small Group Connection**

Pass a gift bow and encourage each child to share the best gift he or she has ever received.

• **Small Group Sharing**

Pass around a bottle of bubbles and encourage children to share about a time they felt joyful. After sharing, the child can blow some bubbles.

• **Small Group Activity:  
Coin Review**

Pass around a coin for each child to flip. If it lands heads, you ask them one of the following review questions. If it lands tails, encourage the kids to repeat the Bible verse while doing an action you give them, such as hopping on one foot.

1. What did the Wise Men see in the sky?  
(*a star*)
2. Whose birth did the star announce?  
(*Jesus*)

3. The Wise Men followed the star to a place called \_\_\_\_\_?  
(*Jerusalem*)
4. When King Herod heard about Jesus' birth, how did he feel? (*angry, jealous*)
5. What did King Herod tell the Wise Men to do? (*find Jesus, and then come back and report*)
6. How did the Wise Men feel when they saw Jesus? (*happy, excited, joyful*)
7. How many gifts did the Wise Men give to Jesus? (*three*)
8. What were the three gifts the wise Men gave to Jesus? (*gold, frankincense, and myrrh*)
9. Why did the Wise Men give gifts to Jesus? (*to worship and honor Him*)

• **The Give-O-Meter**

Pass out Giving Cards to one child at a time and instruct the kids to place the card on the Give-O-Meter poster according to how easy or difficult it would be to give in that situation.

• **Closing**

Pray for the kids and give each one a take-home sheet.