

Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 2:1–12: The Visit of the Magi

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for

thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the Star’s appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.” After their

audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated

themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Focus Questions

1. Who came to Jerusalem? Why?
2. Where did the prophecy say the king of the Jews would be born?
3. What did King Herod ask the Magi to do? Why?
4. What led the Magi to the newborn king?
5. Why did the Magi not return to King Herod?

The Gifts of the Magi

Directions: Sing together the Christmas Carol “We Three Kings” as a class. The Three Kings is another title for the Magi. Then answer the questions.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star.

*Chorus: O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy Perfect Light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again.
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign. **R.**

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship Him, God most high. **R.**

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes of life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **R.**

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia.
Earth to heav'n replies. **R.**

Reflection Questions

1. The Magi traveled very far to see Jesus. Where can you go to visit Jesus in your life?

2. If you could visit the baby Jesus, what special gift would you bring to show he is King of Kings? Why?

Directions: In the box below draw a picture of yourself giving a gift to baby Jesus!

