

Visit of the Wise Men

January

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi or "wise men" believed they could learn from signs they saw in the stars. They followed one special star to Israel, because they were certain they would find a king at the end of their journey. Of course they found Jesus. They worshipped him. They kept the discovery to themselves to protect the baby from harm.

The Gospel Story Through Gameplay

Children begin this game traveling on a road between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. They are instructed to find three Bibles. Upon finding the Bibles, children hear narrations from Matthew 2:1-2, Matthew 2:3-5, and Matthew 2:8-9. In Matthew 2:1-2, kids hear about the wise men coming to Jerusalem because they observe a star. Children hear in Matthew 2:3-5 that Herod is frightened when he hears there is a child who has been born King of the Jews. Herod asks his chief priests where the Messiah has been born. In Matthew 2:8-9, children hear how Herod tells the wise men to go to Bethlehem and find the child.

Children must then find the wise men in Bethlehem. Upon finding them outside of Mary and Joseph's home, children watch a cinema of Matthew 2:10-11. Kids see the wise men walk into the home, fall to their knees and worship Jesus. Children see them present Jesus with gifts from their treasure chests: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Children must then find another Bible, where they watch a cinema of Matthew 2:12. Children see the wise men leave Mary, Joseph, and Jesus and start their journey back home by a different route because they have been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod.

Kids are then given the task of helping the wise men return home. The wise men are standing near a bridge that has many planks missing. One of the wise men asks, "Can you fix this bridge for us?" Kids must search the area for wooden planks and place them into the bridge. Once the bridge is repaired, children watch the wise men and their camel travel on towards their home. Children are told to find the Faith Focus before entering the Bonus Round.

Children then enter into a Bonus Round with tokens that lead them across the bridge they've just repaired. Children spiral their way up a mountain

THE GAME IN 30 SECONDS

Find 3 Bibles on the road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and hear narrations of Matthew 2:1-2, Matthew 2:3-5, and Matthew 2:8-9.

Find the wise men in Bethlehem and watch a cinema of Matthew 2:10-11.

Find a Bible and watch a cinema of Matthew 2:12.

Repair the bridge and help the wise men return home.

Find the Faith Focus.

Collect bonus tokens; then find the cross to end the game.

LIGHT THE FIRE

This month, children are asked to help the wise men return home. Kids must repair a bridge so the wise men can return home by a different route from which they entered Bethlehem.

Ask the kids: How might you help the wise men return home? Do you think they will travel home by the same road that they entered Bethlehem(Hint: Matthew 2:12)?

(Each month, "Light The Fire" will contain some fun gameplay activities related to the Gospel story. Use it to start a discussion with your children about this month's Bible story game.)

collecting tokens. In order to make it to the very top, however, they must walk a tightrope high in the air. Once they make it to the mountaintop, children find a special domino token which gains them even more points! There is also a special token that will teleport them to another area of tokens.

Kids also have the opportunity to help other children in the game. A young girl, in a field outside of Bethlehem, needs someone to take her sheep to the shearer. Kids must lead her sheep back into Bethlehem to the sheep shearer. They can then take the wool back to the girl and load it into her cart.

PASTOR'S COMMENTS

In this month's Gospel Champions game, children see the wise men bring gifts to Jesus. The kids then help the wise men return home by a different route. What kinds of things can you do to help others work for the kingdom of God?

(The "Pastor's Comment" can be used after the Gospel reading to get the kids excited about the lesson and the related game.)

Saint of the Month

Blessed Laura Vicuna

Children find this special token near the bridge that they repaired.

When Blessed Laura Vicuna was 12 she was ill and dying. She said that she would gladly give up her life to bring salvation to her mother. After her death, her mother repented and returned to the church.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The magi wanted to travel to Bethlehem to bring gifts to Jesus. What special gift can you give Jesus through your actions this week?



Spiritual Works of Mercy

Pray for the living and for the dead.

Children find a boy on a rooftop who is getting ready for a nap. The boy asks children to pray with him.

