

WEEK 5

ADVENT

GOD'S PEOPLE FOLLOW THE KING

PRIMARY LESSON GUIDE



THE FOUR KEYS

KEY VERSE

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. 1 John 5:3

KEY IDEAS

1. When we follow God our lives are changed
2. God's commands are for our good
3. Obedience is a result of faith

KEY PASSAGE

Matthew 2:1-12

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

God calls us to obey Him and His commands are for our good.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

a desire to obey the commands of God.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

discuss how obeying God shows our love for Him and others.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to follow and obey God even when it's hard to understand.

INTRODUCTION

Advent is a special season to celebrate the first coming of Jesus Christ our Lord and to remember that He has promised He will return again. Advent means “arrival” or “coming”. During this season, we are reminded that the first coming of Jesus was all about saving the world from sin. He left His throne in Heaven to willingly come to the earth as a man (God in human form), offering Himself as the perfect sacrifice to bring salvation and hope to the nations. Advent also reminds us that He has promised He will return for His church and make all things right once and for all.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class by allowing children to share one of their favorite things about Christmas. “Do you enjoy watching someone open a gift you’ve given them? Why do you enjoy that?” It’s fun give gifts to others, especially when we know it’s something they really want or something that maybe they didn’t know they wanted but is something they would really appreciate. Giving and receiving gifts is one way we show love to others. That was true in Bible time, also. Does anyone remember what the Magi (wise men) gave to Jesus?

STORY

Read Matthew 2:1-12 or read the Jesus Storybook Bible.

After Jesus was born, God had placed a very special bright star in the sky to spread the news that the Messiah, had been born. Now there was a group of wise men called Magi from a far land in the East, and they studied the stars and the Holy Scriptures. One night as they were watching, they noticed the star God had put in the sky, and knew it was for a very special King who had been born. They decided to go and find this King so that they could worship him.

The Magi followed the star across the desert until they arrived in Jerusalem, where a king named Herod lived. They asked the people of Jerusalem where the newborn King was, and king Herod became angry when he heard of this. He didn’t want anyone else to become king. So, Herod began asking where this newborn King was to be born and the people told him the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. Herod then summoned the Magi and asked them to report back to him when they had found this new King so that he, too, could worship him. Only Herod was lying. He didn’t want to worship Jesus, he wanted to kill Jesus!

What happened when the Magi finally reached Bethlehem?

After continuing to follow the star, they finally reached Bethlehem, and when they saw Jesus, they bowed down and worshipped Him! They gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Why do you think they gave gold, frankincense, and myrrh?
Why didn’t they return to Herod with the news? How did they obey God’s commands?**

ACTIVITY

Use the instruction sheet attached and the construction paper, cotton balls, and glue in the teacher’s closet to help kids make the Wise Men craft. Talk about how the Magi gave gifts to honor Jesus and worship Him.

PRAYER

Thank God that He is worthy of praise. Ask God to help you worship Him in spirit and truth.

SONG

Go Tell it on the Mountain

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

1 Samuel 15:22, Romans 8:18, James 2:26

ACTIVITY

Using the maze activity sheet in your take home packet and the discussion questions below, explain how the Wise Men, or Magi, followed the star that led them to Jesus and how they chose to worship Him as King.

DISCUSSION

- Why did the Magi follow the star?
They were very educated in the stars and the Holy Scriptures and believed it would lead them to the newborn King.
- What did King Herod command the Wise Men to do?
King Herod wanted them to tell him where to find Jesus. He told them it was because he also wanted to worship him, but Herod was lying. He didn't want anyone else to be king except for him, and he wanted to kill Jesus. God did not let that happen and warned the Magi in a dream not to return to Herod.
- What do we know of the Magi from this story?
They were not Jewish, they were from a foreign land in the East (likely Persia). They had heard about the prophecies of Jesus (possibly from the writings of Daniel) and knew the stars well. They knew this star was much different and believed that God had fulfilled the promise to bring the Messiah King. They had a desire to worship God, and they obeyed God's word not to return to Herod.
- What can we learn from the Magi?
It is better to obey God than man. There is much blessing in following God. They followed the star and it led them to Jesus! Their lives were probably forever changed from this event.

PRAYER

Thank God that His commands are for our good and they are not burdensome. Ask God to help you obey His commands even when it's hard to.

