

English Corner
Christmas continued...

Hot Topics

The week before Christmas is a very busy week for many Australians. They need to finish Christmas shopping, go to their work/friends Christmas parties, prepare for the holidays and get ready for the feast on Christmas day. This is very different from the original or first Christmas.

1. What things have you been doing this week? Is this the same or different from what you usually do in your country?

Vocabulary

Wise: a wise person is able to use their knowledge and experience to make good decisions and give good advice.

King Herod: King of the Jews. He was a cruel King. He executed one of his wives and two of his sons. After Jesus was born, he ordered all male babies under 2 years old in Bethlehem to be killed.

Worship: to show respect to God by praising him.

Chief Priests: The leading priests.

Messiah: the promised saviour of God.

Prophet: someone sent by God to tell people what to do or say what will happen in the future.

Search: look carefully

Thrilled: very excited about something.

Knelt: to kneel down.



English Corner
Christmas Party!

Tuesday December 21
From 6.00 pm.

Bring a \$5 or less gift
and \$5 for dinner

7 Hampstead Road
Highgate Hill
0421681801

Introduction

The last 2 weeks we have learnt about the real story of Christmas. We read about the story of Mary and Joseph and the naming of Jesus—meaning God is with us. We heard how the shepherds came to visit the baby Jesus. Today we are going to read about some more special visitors Mary and Joseph had after Jesus was born.

The Wise Men

You will need: Narrator 1 and Narrator 2, Wisemen 1, 2 and 3, King Herod, and the Chief Priest.

Narrator 1: When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was King. During this time some **wise** men from the east came to Jerusalem and said,

Wisemen 1, 2, 3: “Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to **worship** him.”

Narrator 2: When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod brought together the **chief priests** and asked them:

King Herod: Where will the **Messiah** be born?”

Chief Priest: “He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the **prophet** wrote, ‘Bethlehem in the land of Judea, You are very important among the towns of Judea. From your town will come a leader, who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.’”

Narrator 1: Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star, and told them:

King Herod: “Go to Bethlehem and **search** carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too.”

Narrator 2: The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were **thrilled** and excited to see the star.

Narrator 1: When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they **knelt** down and worshipped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him.

Narrator 2: Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, as he wanted to kill the child, and they went back home by another road.

Review

You will be given a part of the Christmas story. You have to work out the order of the story as a group and re-tell your part of the story (if you need help you can look at the back of the card for the story information).

Discussion Questions

1. The wise Men brought gifts that matched Jesus' character and work. **Gold:** was the gift for a king. b) **Frankincense** was the gift for a priest c) **Myrrh** is the gift of one who is to die. What do these gifts tell us about Jesus?
2. Jesus was born in a very humble place (an animal's stable) but he was God's chosen Messiah. What does this say about the kind of Messiah he is?
3. What does Christmas mean to you?