

The Christmas Story Part 3... The Wisemen

English Corner Christmas continued...

Hot Topics

The weeks 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.



The Wise Men Mat 2:1-11 (CEV)

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? What does Christmas mean to you.

Christmas Review Picture Story Cards

Mary and the Angel



Angel Gabriel appears

About two thousand years ago, in the town of Nazareth, there lived a young woman named Mary. She was engaged to be married to Joseph, a carpenter. One day an angel appeared before her and told her she had been chosen to have a special baby. The baby would be God's son and she must call him Jesus.

Journey to Bethlehem



The Journey

Soon after the angel's visit, Mary and Joseph were married. Mary was due to have her baby when they were told they had to go on a long journey to Bethlehem, which was where Joseph came from. This was because they had to pay a special tax. Mary had to ride on a donkey for a few days over the hills of Gallilee.

No Room at the Inn



No Room at the Inn

At last Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem. It was crowded with other people who needed to pay their taxes. Mary was very tired and needed a place to stay. At each inn, the story was the same. There was no room for them. Eventually, one kind innkeeper said he had a stable where he kept his animals. They were welcome to stay there.

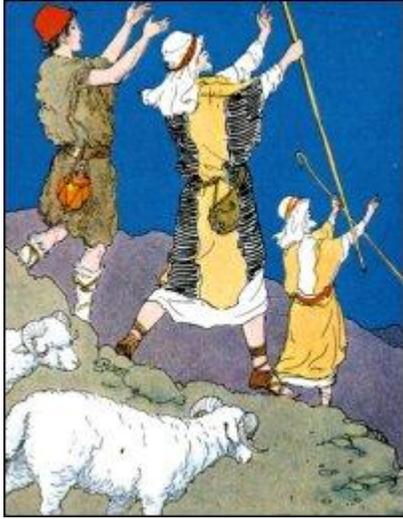
Jesus is Born



Jesus is Born

And so it was that a few hours later, Mary gave birth to her son in that stable. She wrapped Jesus in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger full of hay.

Shepherds hear News



Shepherds are Afraid

At the same time, on a hillside overlooking Bethlehem, some shepherds were watching over their sheep. A bright light appeared in the sky. They were very afraid. It was an angel sent by God. The angel told them not to be afraid, because he had some good news. He said the Son of God had been born and they would find Him in Bethlehem

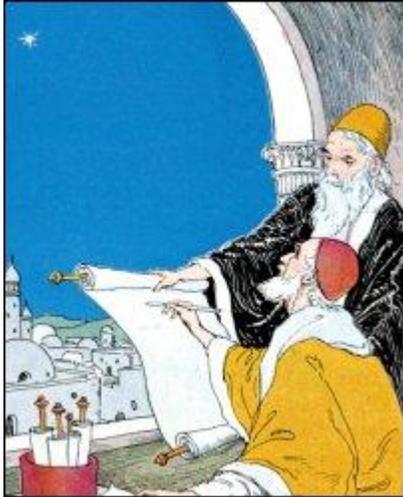
Shepherds give Gifts



Shepherds give Gifts

The shepherds wanted to go and see the baby. When they arrived at the stable, they were filled with joy at seeing Jesus lying in the manger. They knelt down and worshipped Him. They told Mary and Joseph how the angel had appeared in the sky and told them that Jesus was to be the Saviour of the world.

A New Star Appears



A New Star in the Sky

Far away in the East, Wise Men saw a new star shining high in the sky. These men studied the stars and they knew this was a very special star. They studied their scrolls where it said that whenever a bright new star appeared it meant that a great ruler had been born.

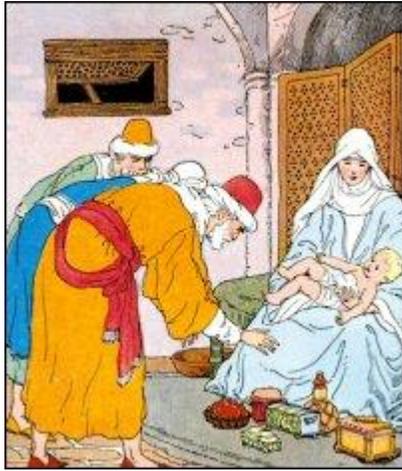
Following the Star



Wise Men Follow the Star

The Wise Men decided to find this new ruler. They went to Jerusalem to see King Herod, as they thought the baby would be in the palace. They asked to see the child that would be King of the Jews. The king was troubled. He thought this new king may take away his throne. He told them to return when they had found the baby so that he could worship the child himself.

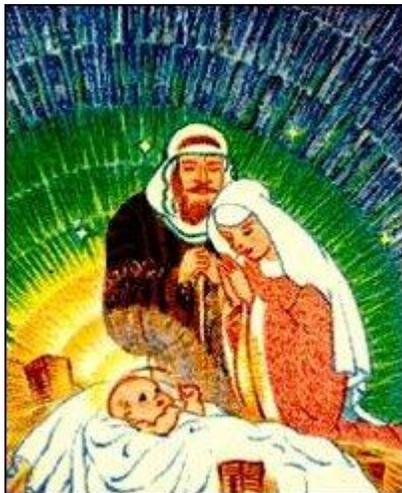
Wise Men give Gifts



The Wise Men Give Gifts

The Wise Men set off to find the baby. They were guided by the star to the stable in Bethlehem. Here they knelt down and worshipped Jesus. They gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. That night, the men had the same dream where an angel warned them that King Herod wanted to kill Jesus and told them not to go back to his palace.

Jesus is Safe



Jesus is Safe

The Wise Men went back to their own country without calling to see Herod. Soon after Joseph had a dream where an angel told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt as King Herod had ordered that Jesus be killed. They left Bethlehem right away. When the wise men did not return, Herod ordered that baby boys in Bethlehem be killed. They did not find Jesus as he was safe.