

Epiphany Celebration: Wise Men Worship

Adapted for Readers Theater directly from Matthew 2: 1-15 (KJV)

By Carol Montgomery

Performance Time = about 2 1/4 minutes

Cast (11?):

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Wiseman 1

Wiseman 2

Wiseman 3

Priest

Prophet

Herod

Mary

Angel

Joseph

(NOTE: If you prefer a different Bible version go ahead and use it! I don't have permission yet to use anything besides King James Version. Also, make sure you read our family story at the end of this script for some extra special ideas.)

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Narrator 1: Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying...

Wiseman 1: Where is he that is born King of the Jews?

Wiseman 2: For we have seen his star in the east,

Wiseman 3: And are come to worship him.

Narrator 2: When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Narrator 1: And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him...

Priest: In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

Prophet: And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Narrator 2: Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said...

Herod: Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

Epiphany Celebration: Wise Men Worship

Narrator 1: When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them,

Wiseman 1: Till it came and stood over where the young child was.

Narrator 2: When they saw the star, they rejoiced...

Wiseman 2: With exceeding great joy.

Narrator 1: And when they were come into the house they saw...

Mary: The young child with Mary his mother.

Wiseman 3: And fell down, and worshipped him.

Narrator 2: And when they had opened their treasure,

Mary: They presented unto him gifts:

Wiseman 1: Gold,

Wiseman 2: And frankincense,

Wiseman 3: And myrrh.

Narrator 1: And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Narrator 2: And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying...

Angel: Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

Epiphany Celebration: Wise Men Worship

Narrator 1: When he arose,

Joseph: He took the young child and his mother by night and departed into Egypt: and was there until the death of Herod:

Narrator 2: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet saying,

Prophet: Out of Egypt have I called my son.

Narrators 1 & 2: Our Deliverer.

*Optional Christmas Carol: “We Three Kings”

(As a family we used to invite other families over on Jan. 6 to celebrate Epiphany even though we are not Catholic. We all dressed in costume and acted out this story. Sometimes we did it pantomime style while a narrator read the Bible story. Other times I “fed lines” to the speakers (i.e., they would echo whatever I spoke). If I was prepared ahead of time we might actually have Readers Theater scripts to use. It’s easy to save the scripts from year to year with the Christmas decorations. One of the highlights was watching the “angel” shine a flashlight on the ceiling for a star. Of course, the wisemen followed the star. Another highlight was using the photo opportunity. If we ever do it again with children we may even add some real worship music when the wise men fall down to worship.)

Curriculum Links (Valid in 2010):

<http://bethlehemstar.net/>

This well-researched site actually explains the detailed astronomy of the star of Bethlehem in great depth from a Biblical perspective.

<http://ministry-to-children.com/the-birth-of-christ-wise-men/>

Lesson plan for grades K-5.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_Magi

Wiki information on “Biblical Magi.”

<http://holidays.mrdonn.org/3kings.html>

“The Day of Three Kings” story for children.

You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUDKevNKwM4&feature=related>

Traditional rendition of “We Three Kings” for you to sing with your family. The words are highlighted with yellow when it’s time to sing. There are no voices singing with you.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJxBIJfjOU4&feature=related>

Upbeat rendition of “We Three Kings “ with the words for your family to sing along. Voices help lead your singing.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87wGHfAi17Q>

Claymation “We Three Kings” jazzed up with a singing camel chorus. 5 min.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fuYW8GegdWQ&feature=fvw>

“We Three Kings” on “hang drum”. (I never heard of it either, but you may enjoy the resonant sounds.)