

WISE MEN WORSHIP JESUS CHRIST

CHRISTMAS LESSON #4

Matthew 2

Lesson Memory Verse: John 4:24 "God is a spirit: and **they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.**" (Grades 1 & 2 memorize portion in **bold.**)

Lesson Aim: Teach the children to worship Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Let the children finish this story:

"Help! Help!" cried Jack, and then he disappeared under the water. Everyone was terrified and someone shouted for the lifeguard to hurry and save Jack from drowning.

It had been a perfect day for swimming on that hot July afternoon. The water was great and everyone was having fun. Jack and his friends had been throwing a beach ball back and forth when a gust of wind blew it out of Jack's reach. Jack began to swim after the ball, but the wind teasingly blew it just out of Jack's grasp each time he reached for it. Jack tried and tried again, but could not get the ball. Finally, he got so tired that he could not move his arms or his legs any more.

When Jack stopped swimming he expected to touch the bottom of the lake with his feet, but to his horror he was over his head in water. He tried to swim again, but he was too tired. All he could do was cry out. "Help! Help!" he cried, and then he disappeared under the water.

The lifeguard quickly shoved his boat into the water and brought it over to the place where Jack was last seen. He dove into the lake and almost immediately surfaced with Jack in his arms. Quickly he brought him to shore. He told someone to call for an ambulance and then began to work on him. Would Jack live? No one knew, but the lifeguard did all he could to save Jack's life.

After a few minutes Jack moaned and his eyes opened, but his breathing was not good. The lifeguard kept working on Jack until his breathing returned to normal. Jack said he felt all right, but the lifeguard was not going to take any chances. When the ambulance arrived, he told them to take Jack to the hospital where he could be thoroughly examined. The lifeguard wanted to be sure that Jack was all right.

After the lifeguard closed the beach for the rest of that day, he went to the hospital. When he came into Jack's room, Jack's mother and father met him and.... (Have the children tell how Jack's mother and father felt and what they did.)

HE (for Authority): Our Bible memory verse for today tells us two things that we must do when we worship the Lord. Let us read this memory verse (John 4:24) and find out what those two things are.

1. We are to worship the Lord **in spirit**. This means we are to worship Him with our whole heart, with all that we say and do and think.
2. We are to worship the Lord **in truth**. This means we are to worship Him as the Bible teaches. We are not to worship buildings or temples or crosses or statues or anything else, but we are to worship the Lord and only the Lord.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today we are going to find out how the wise men and King Herod treated Jesus. Then we must ask ourselves, "How do I treat Jesus?"

TEACHERS: Use a white board or a large poster to write down facts learned about the wise men's worship and about King Herod's worship as you tell the story. Better yet, you can sketch simple drawings to represent these facts.

WISE MEN

2:1 – They were glad to make a long, dangerous trip to meet the King of the Jews. **Right spirit.**

KING HEROD

2:3 – He was troubled about the birth of the King of the Jews. **Wrong spirit.**

LESSON PLAN

WE: We should prepare ourselves to see Jesus someday, just like the wise men. We can do that by desiring to learn about Him in Sunday School and in church. This will give us the right spirit for worshipping Him. Never be sad that it is time to go to church. This is the wrong spirit and makes it impossible for us to worship Him.

WISE MEN

2:2 – They came to worship the new-born King of the Jews. He was God in the flesh, the **right person** to worship. **Truth.**

WE: When we worship Jesus Christ, we should worship Him in truth, because He is the right person to worship. If we worship any others (i.e., movie stars, athletes, musicians), our worship is given to the wrong person.

2:9-10 – They rejoiced with exceeding great joy, when they saw the star. **Right spirit.**
The star would lead them to Jesus. **Right person. Truth.**

WE: We should rejoice at Christmas because Jesus came to save us from our sins. This is the reason we should worship Him.

2:11 – They took from their treasures to give gifts. **Right spirit.** They gave gifts to Jesus **Right person. Truth.** (They did not give gifts to Mary or Joseph.)

WE: We usually think that Christmas is the time that we should receive gifts, but this is the time that Jesus should receive gifts from us. That is how we worship Him. What gift(s) do you plan to plan to give to Jesus this Christmas?

2:11 – They fell down and worshipped Jesus.
Right person with a right spirit (humble).

WE: We need to worship Jesus with humility, because He is God's Son who made us. We should be willing to do whatever He tells us and never get angry with Him.

2:12 – They were warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod and they obeyed God. **Right spirit.** Their obedience protected Jesus from being killed.

WE: We must learn to obey God, even if it makes somebody angry with us. It is not possible to worship Him in the right spirit, if we disobey Him.

BE (for Action): How do you worship the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you worship Him only at Christmas or all year long? Do you worship Him or the gifts you get? Do the Christmas tree and decorations, the candy and nuts, the trip to someone's house mean more to you than Jesus? If God took away everything but Jesus at Christmas, would you be disappointed? Would you be angry? Would you still worship Jesus with a thankful, happy heart? Would you worship Him with the right spirit?

With heads bowed, ask how many would be satisfied if all they had for Christmas this year was Jesus. (Have them raise their hands; then pray for them.)

KING HEROD

2:4 – He had the scribes tell him where Christ would be born so he could find and kill Him. He did not want Christ to take his throne. He wanted to remain the king of the Jews, but he was the **wrong person. No truth**

2:7 – He asked when the star in the east appeared so he would know how old this child was that he wanted to kill. **Wrong Spirit** (he had no desire to worship the **right person**).

2:8 – He said he wanted to worship the child, too. **Right person.** But he was lying. **Wrong spirit.**

2:16 – He was angry when the wise men did not return to tell him where they found the child. **Wrong spirit.**

2:16 – Killed all children in Bethlehem two years and under in an attempt to kill Jesus.. **Wrong spirit.**