

Worship 2 Go

Drawing School and Home Together

Thanks to all those people who have made some of the resources collated here available to share

Epiphany - visit of the Wise Men

Bible Reading

The wise men heard the king and then left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east. It went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped the child. They opened the gifts they brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country by a different way.

You can find this in the Bible, in the book of Matthew, chapter 2, verse 1-12.

Younger children might enjoy this short video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCOW8NKfrBg>



Prayer

*Dear God,
Thank you for the light that shines in the darkness. Please help each of us in this new year to shine like stars in the world as we follow the example Jesus sets us.
Amen*

Wondering

- I wonder if you can imagine what it would be like to make the long journey of the Wise Men
- I wonder what you think made them keep on going
- I wonder what 'follow the light' means to you

Creative Prayer 1 ≈ Crown Prayers



Perhaps one of the wise man wore a crown, perhaps they were kings. Make a small crown out of some thick paper or thin card. Decorate it however you like and then for the next week or so, hide it in a different place each day in your home. Whoever finds it should pick someone or something to pray for.

Creative Prayer 2 ≈ Epiphany Blessing

An Epiphany tradition some people do is 'the chalking of the doors', a kind of prayer to ask Jesus to bless the home (or place) where the writing is used. It is a centuries old tradition. This year the blessing reads 21+c+M+b+21 and some people will write this in chalk above or on the wall next to their door. You can use chalk or you could write the symbols on a piece of paper and stick it above the door.

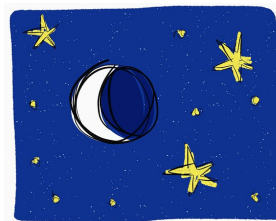
The letters have two meanings. First they represent the traditional names of the wise men some people use, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar who visited Jesus in his home. It also abbreviates to an old language, Latin, *Christus mansionem benedicat* which means "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "21" at the beginning and the end mark both ends of the year.

When the numbers and letters have been written, someone says a prayer asking God to bless the people in that place and that all those who visit the place might see the light of Jesus there in the coming year. Maybe you would like to start this as a new tradition this year.



Activity 1 ≈ Stargazing Adapted from <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/top-tips-for-stargazing>

Stargazing is a great thing to do all together. You don't need any special equipment although there are apps you can download or star maps you can find online. You will need to pick a clear night and wrap up warm though! You can stargaze on a walk or by lying on a blanket and looking into the night sky (maybe in the summer!).



If you have downloaded a star spotter guide, you can look for constellations, collections of stars but it can be fun to make up your own shapes to. Trace the outline with your finger pointed up into the sky or take pencil and paper so you can draw the shape. The astrophysicist Chris Cook suggests looking up at a star, imagining a solar system of planets circling that star and then imagining one of those planets and the aliens that might live there. You could also imagine what it would be like to be the wise men following the star and what their journey might have been like. What adventures do you think they would have?

If you are really fortunate you might even get to see a shooting star!

Activity 2 ≈ FRANKINCENSE

How many words can you make from this big one? (I find it easier to write them in a circle shape to try and find words). You might think this is quite difficult (I did!) so once you have had a go with this, perhaps you could challenge each other with different words.

Fact of the week

Did you know that when you see the stars you are looking into the past. Because light takes time to travel and stars are many light years away from us you could be seeing a star that doesn't even exist anymore. Isn't that amazing?!

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