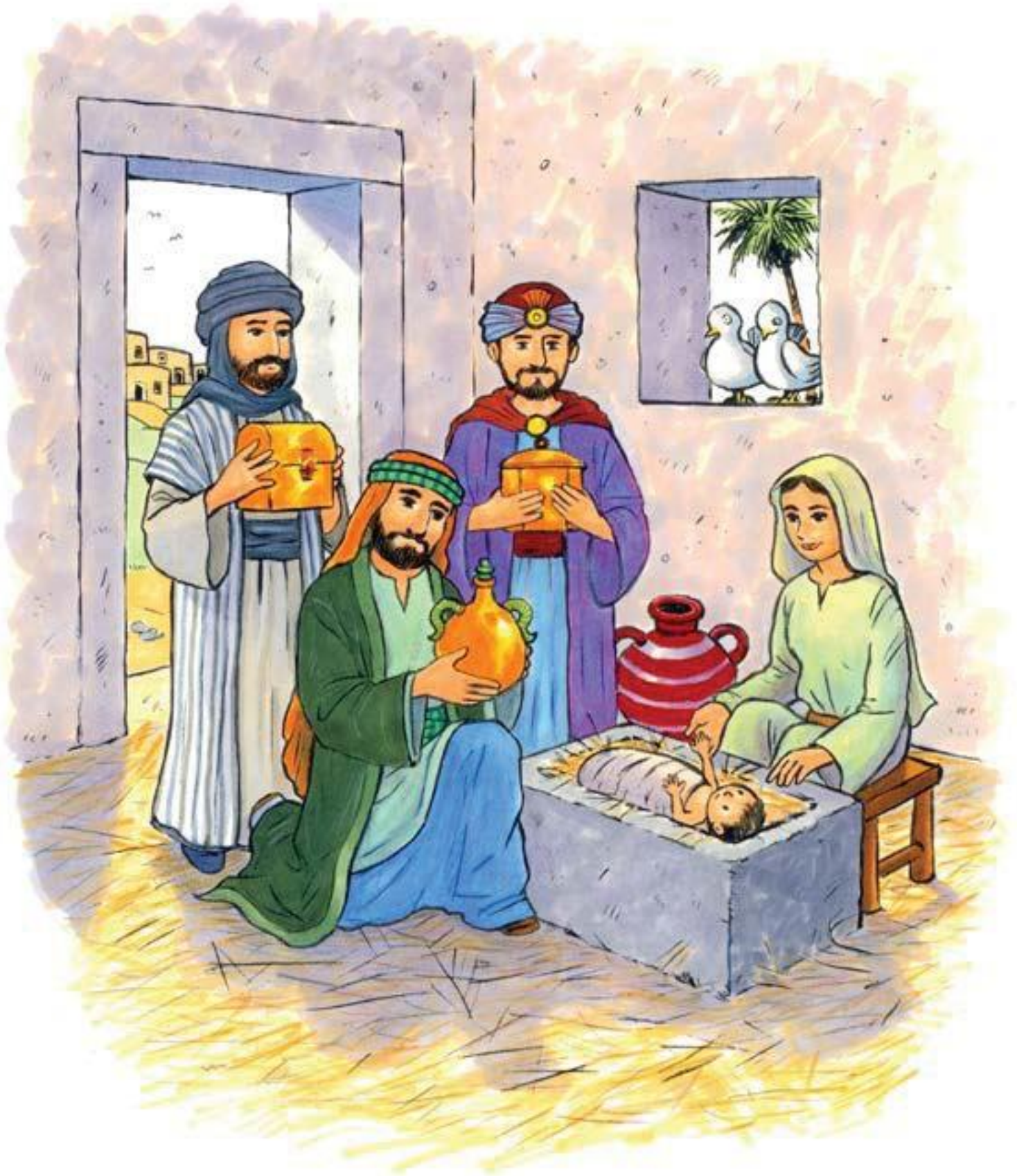


# WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

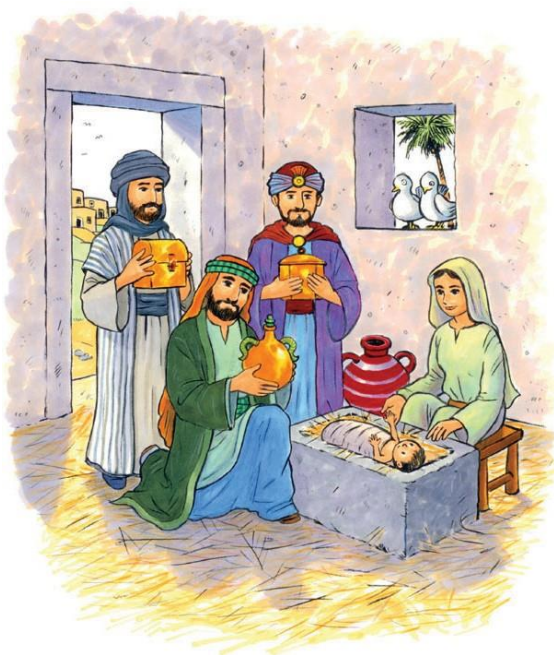
Matthew 2:1-14



# Contents

Message	The greatest gift we can give the Lord is our heart.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ God placed a special star in the sky to lead the wise men to the place of Jesus' birth.</li><li>■ God sent an angel to warn Joseph about the king's plan.</li><li>■ We should give Jesus our heart.</li></ul>
Bible Text	Matthew 2:1–14

## Wise Men from the East



After Jesus was born, wise men travelled to Jerusalem. When they arrived they asked the people, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

King Herod also heard of their enquiries. He was shocked and feared that his power and rule may be threatened. Troubled, he called the chief priests and scribes and asked them where Christ would be born. They answered, “According to one of the prophets, He would be born in Bethlehem.”

The king then called the wise men to the palace. He wanted to know when they first discovered the star.

The king then said, “Go to Bethlehem. When you have found the Child, please let me know. I would also like to worship Him.” The king had a very different plan. He wanted to kill the Child so that He could not take his place as king.

The wise men had no idea of the king's wicked plan. They set out on their journey and the star they saw in the East led them until it stopped where the young Child was.

They were filled with joy to find Mary with the Child. They fell down on their knees before the Child and worshipped Him. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh as gifts.

In a dream, the wise men were warned not to report back to the king and to return home another way. When the wise men left, an angel also appeared to Joseph in a dream.

The angel told Joseph, “Take Mary and Jesus to Egypt and stay there until I come to you. The king wants to harm the Child.” When Joseph woke up, he took Mary and Jesus to Egypt.

### Suggestions for the Teacher

#### Lead-In

Ask the children what they can see in the sky by night.

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel ....

Let some of the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.

Provide disguise / fancy dress and additional materials like "gold", fruits, spices...

#### Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- Why do the wise men come from the East to Jerusalem?  
(The wise men saw a star indicating the birth of a special King.  
They decide to go and look for that King.)
- What happens when they arrive in Jerusalem?  
(They ask the people where they can find the newborn King of the Jews.  
King Herod then secretly calls the wise men to the palace.  
He sends them to Bethlehem to look for the Child and asks them to report to him.)
- Why do the wise men not return to King Herod after they have found Mary and the Child?  
(God warns them in a dream not to return to King Herod.)

Have the children repeat...

- God placed a special star in the sky to lead the wise men to the place of Jesus' birth.
- God sent an angel to warn Joseph about the king's plan.
- We should give Jesus our heart.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- The wise men from the East recognized Jesus as the King shown by the star.
- What kind of King is Jesus? (Jesus is a King without a worldly kingdom.  
His kingdom is in heaven. He also wants to be King of our heart.)
- What would you like to give Jesus? (Our Hearts belong to Jesus.)

Repeat the Message

The greatest gift we can give the Lord is our heart.