

Epiphany - Visitors from the East

Happy new year everyone! Here are a few ideas of things you can do to celebrate Epiphany today!

Think about your presents this Christmas:

- Can you think of a really thoughtful present someone has given to you?
- Can you think of a really unusual present someone gave you or which you gave to someone else?



Read Matthew 2:1-12 which tells us about the visitors from the East. Who were they? Who did they visit? And what gifts did they bring?

Watch Jenny's video (find the link on the website alongside these resources)

Make a crown - use some card from a cereal box to make a crown, decorate it with crafty bits and pieces and add this verse to your crown:

They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east. We came to worship him." Matthew 2:2.

While you are making your crown think about what this means; how did the wise men know who Jesus was? And why did they search for him?

Talk about - What gifts would you give to a new baby? Maybe you have a younger brother or sister or cousins and can remember what gifts they were given when they were born? The Wise Men brought gifts which were very expensive and were quite strange ones to give to a baby!

They were all gifts which had something to say about Jesus. Gold to show that Jesus is a King, Frankincense because he is God and Myrrh because he was born to grow into the man who gave his life for us at Easter.



- I wonder how the wise men chose their presents?
- I wonder what Mary and Joseph thought about these gifts?

What present would you like to give to Jesus now? Maybe the gift of your worship, through singing, dancing, playing, praising, and by loving him and others and being kind to everyone you meet? Maybe you could draw a picture or write a message for Jesus about your present!

Play star hide and seek. Cut out some star shapes and take it in turns to hide them around the room. How many can you find?

Play a matching game - this is a favourite game at our Epiphany parties! Find some old Christmas cards (not this year's cards without asking first!) and cut them in half - use some zigzag or curvy lines - and separate them into two piles, one half in each pile. Spread one pile out around the room or house and then everyone takes one half from the other pile and tries to find the matching half. Race against each other or time yourself, when you have a match take another card from the pile and find the other half, until all the cards have been matched!



Make some star shaped biscuits or sandwiches or snacks - if you have what you need and a star shaped cutter!

Pray together: you might like to light a candle and play some quiet music as you spend time praying. There was a moment when Jesus was a grown up when he asked his disciples who they thought he was. In this story, the wise men recognised who Jesus was and is; the promised King who would give his life to bring people back to God.

Jesus asks us the same question too; who do we say he is? Is he just a baby who we bring out every year at Christmas or is there something in what the wise men did that makes us think again?

Sit quietly and think for a few moments about this, ask God to help you hear what he wants to say to you. Ask yourself - who do I say Jesus is? And then talk to God about this, thanking him for sending his son, Jesus and for all that he means to you.

