

JESUS COMES TO LIVE AMONG US

When Jesus was born, wise men came from the east looking for Him. They asked people, “Where is the one who is born king of the Jews? We have seen his star rising!” When Herod, the king of the Jews, heard this he sent for these men. “When you find Him, tell me, he commanded them.”

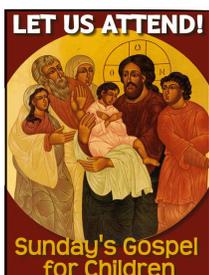
They found the newborn, Jesus, in a cave, with Mary and Joseph. He was wrapped in white cloth and lying in the manger, where food for the animals was kept. They worshipped Him and offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. An angel told them not to go back to King Herod, so they went back to their country another way.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. The wise men came to worship Jesus, the newborn King of the Jews. How did they know where to come?
2. Where did they find Mary, Joseph, and Jesus?
3. What gifts did they bring the newborn king?
4. King Herod wanted them to come back to tell him where Jesus was. Did they do this?
5. Who warned them not to?



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Pre-



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When our Lord Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, Herod was the king. He ruled from Jerusalem. One day, wise men came to Jerusalem from the East. They asked “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw a star in the East that means he was born, and we came so that we can worship him.”

When Herod the king heard about this, it bothered him. He was the king, and didn’t want anyone else to be. He called together many smart people: the chief priests, who were in charge of the temple, and the scribes, who knew how to write and read. He asked them where the Christ (the savior) was supposed to be born.

The smart people told Herod that the Christ was to be born in Bethlehem. They knew this, because one of the prophets had said that it would happen, and that a ruler would come from Bethlehem who would be in charge of God’s people, Israel.

Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men from the East. They told him when the star first appeared in the sky. Then, he sent them on to Bethlehem. He said, “Look hard for the child. After you find him, come back, and tell me about him and where I can find him. I want to worship him, too!”

Then the wise men left King Herod and started going to Bethlehem. The star that they had seen when they were still at home (in the East) guided their way. It stopped right over the place where Mary and Jesus were.

When the wise men saw Jesus, they worshiped Him. They brought out gifts that they had brought for Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They gave the gifts to Jesus. They were very happy to have found Him!

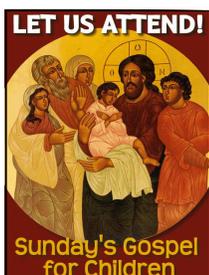
The wise men were warned in a dream about King Herod, that he didn’t really want to worship Jesus, but rather, he wanted to kill Him. So, instead of going back to Jerusalem to meet with King Herod and tell him about Jesus and where to find Him, they went home a different way.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who was the king, when Jesus was born?
2. Who came to visit that king? What did they want?
3. Where did the chief priests and scribes tell Herod that the Christ would be born? How did they know?
4. Where was Jesus born?
5. What helped the wise men find Jesus after they left Herod’s palace? How did they feel when they found Him?
6. What did the wise men do when they found Jesus?
7. Did the wise men tell Herod about finding Jesus? Why or why not?



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JESUS COMES TO DWELL AMONG US

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.”

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.’”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”

When they had heard of the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy;

and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

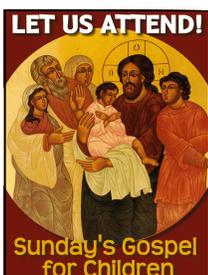
And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Where do the chief priests and scribes tell Herod the Christ will be born?
2. Who does the prophet say will come from Bethlehem?
3. Where does the first sentence in this Gospel say Jesus was born?
4. What does his birth in Bethlehem tell us about Jesus?
5. How do you think the wise men felt when they saw Jesus? What makes you think so?
6. Why do you think the wise men gave gifts to Jesus?
7. If you had been there, what would you have given Him? Why?



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JESUS COMES TO DWELL AMONG US

Characters: Narrator, Wisemen, Priests and scribes, Prophet

Narrator: When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying,

Wisemen: Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.

Narrator: When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him,

Priests/scribes: In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

Prophet: And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.

Narrator: Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,

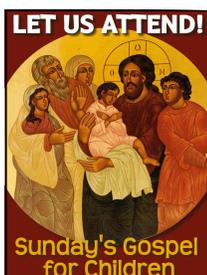
Herod: Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.

Narrator: When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.



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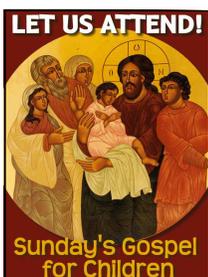
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And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who is the king named in the first sentence of this gospel?
2. What king are the wise men looking for?
3. What does the prophet say this king will do?
4. Why would this trouble Herod the king? What might he worry would happen if there is a new king in his land?
5. Who is this king of the Jews the wise men are looking for?
6. Does Jesus become the same kind of king Herod is?



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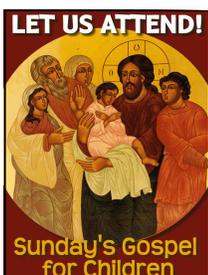
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6. Does Jesus become the same kind of king Herod is?
7. What do you think Jesus is king of? How does he rule this kingdom?



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