

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 28 December 08
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Christmas Traditions / Wise Men worship Jesus
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Luke 2:1-12
- **CONCEPT:** We can give Jesus our hearts

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that following the Bible leads us to Jesus.
- To challenge kids to give their hearts to Jesus.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Map of the journey to Bethlehem (the one you used 3 weeks ago)
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>A. Worship through Music (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing 2 songs together (<i>This is the Day / Supernatural</i>). 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to lift a mat each and sit down. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i></p>
<p>B. Message 15 minutes</p> <p>1. Set the scene <i>Initiate discussion:</i> Did any of you have visitors come to your house these last few days? Did you invite them to come, or did they turn up unexpectedly? Did they bring anything for you? Tell us about it. Did you go to visit anyone? Did you take anything to give to the person? What did you take?</p> <p><i>Change this as appropriate to you:</i> I went to visit my granny a few days ago. I had a Christmas present for her, all wrapped up in shiny paper with ribbons tied around it. She had a big smile on her face when I set it down in front of her. She opened it up, and was even happier when she saw inside! It was her favourite perfume, with bubble bath and body lotion and soap and a little pillow to rest her head on in the bath. Granny was happy!</p> <p>Then, one night during the week, there was a knock at my front door. It was my next-door-neighbour. She had come to wish me a Happy Christmas, and she brought a box of chocolates. It wasn't a big fancy Christmas gift, but it was a very nice surprise because it was so thoughtful and kind.</p> <p>It's very nice when someone comes to visit you, isn't it? Sometimes people can bring you a present, or a card, or maybe just a hug and a chat. It doesn't really matter how big the present is, does it? It's just great to know that someone cares enough to come and see you.</p> <p>2. Tell the story Today, we're going to hear about some special visitors whom Mary and Joseph received into their home.</p> <p>Last week, we celebrated Jesus' birthday. After the shepherds had come to see Jesus, Mary and Joseph decided to stay in Bethlehem for some time (remember they were actually from Nazareth). They probably got married and found a little house to live in while baby Jesus was growing. Can you imagine Him learning to crawl and walk and talk? He was a baby just like you were once!</p> <p>Little Jesus was about two years old. The king of Judea – the region where Bethlehem was (<i>refer to this on your map from 3 weeks ago if you displayed it</i>) – was King Herod. He lived in Jerusalem, the capital. Herod was a selfish king. He liked to be in charge and he didn't let anything or anyone get in his way, not even his own family. People were afraid of King Herod. He was not a man you wanted to get on the wrong side of!</p>	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Map</i></p>

King Herod heard some news which upset him. Everyone was talking about it. You see, there were foreigners on the streets of Jerusalem. No one knew who they were. They were from faraway places; countries a long way away to the east of Judea. The people in Jerusalem stood at the sides of the roads and watched as these strange-looking men went by. People said that these men were very important; that perhaps they studied the sky and the stars, because they went around asking the question: "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." (Matthew 2:2)

Now, when King Herod heard this news he started to worry. "These wise men say they're looking for the king of the Jews. That's my job! I'm king of the Jews in Judea. But they said they're looking for a baby ... Someone else wants to challenge me to be king! I'll put a stop to this!"

King Herod called the wise foreigners to his palace for a secret meeting. He wanted to know more about this star they said they had followed. He was very nice to the wise men and got the information he needed from them. Then King Herod sent the wise men off to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." (Matthew 2:8) In fact, King Herod was not one bit interested in worshipping our baby Jesus. Oh no! This was an evil plan to find out where Jesus was so that Herod could kill him! Herod was the only king of the Jews and he wasn't going to let this baby cause any more disruption. He wanted to put an end to all the rumours and talking on the street.

In the meantime, the wise men left King Herod and followed the bright star in the sky until it stopped over the place where Jesus was. When they saw how the star led them, and finally stopped, the wise men were so happy and excited. They walked, nervous and excited at the same time, towards the little house. They pushed open the door and found little Jesus with Mary, his mummy. Wow! The wise men from the far east were amazed! They knew they had found the real King of the Jews, and they bowed down on the floor and worshipped Him. What a special moment this was; a moment those wise men would remember forever. And they brought presents for the baby King Jesus. Do you remember what they were? They gave Him gold – gold for a king. They gave Him incense – very expensive perfume to show that the baby was God. And they gave Him myrrh – myrrh is a herb that the people used to bring for people who died. This was a very strange gift to bring for a new baby, wasn't it? But they didn't know that this baby Jesus would grow up and die for the people to make a way for us to get to heaven!

Boys and girls, after the wise men had been with Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus, they were ready to go back to King Herod to tell him where the new King Jesus was living. But, something stopped them from going. One of the wise men had a dream – a dream in which God warned them not to go back to King Herod, but to take a different road on their way home.

That's exactly what they did. King Herod never saw those three foreigners again!

3. Explain

Those wise men were special visitors. We don't know any more about them, and we really only think about them at Christmas when we're talking about little Jesus. But, you know, we should think about them more often, because they treated Jesus like the king He was, even though He was just a baby. They made a long journey to get to Him, they followed His star, and they brought Him very precious gifts.

In some ways, it's easier for us. We don't have to make a long journey to find Jesus. He's always with us. If we ask Him to come and live in our hearts, He will! And He promises never to leave us. The wise men had to follow a star in the sky to find Jesus. We have our Bibles to guide us – the Bible is the Word of God – and we can find strength and comfort and joy and peace from reading God's promises. And then the gifts. Do you remember what the wise men brought for Jesus? Gold, incense and myrrh. You don't need to go to a shop to get something for Jesus. He only wants your heart. It doesn't cost as much, but it's a lot more precious. If you promise to live for Jesus, He promises to be with you always – every moment of every day ... and as we've learnt on the Island this Christmas, God ALWAYS keeps His promises!

C. Prayer Net

10 minutes

1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we *pray* – We talk to God and He listens.
2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him.
3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week (two weeks ago if you did not use the prayer net at last week's family service). Ask the kids for updates on those situations.
4. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations.
5. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net.
6. Finish by leading a prayer for the whole group.

You'll need ...

Net (with last week's prayer cards)
Small cards / postcards
A pen

D. Conclusion (with puppets)

5 minutes

1. Challenge kids to remember to be like the wise men – ready to look for Jesus, ready to let Him guide us, and ready to give Him our hearts.
2. Remind kids to come back this evening.
3. Sing 2 closing songs. (*I Am Not Forgotten / Everyday*)
4. Ask kids to put their mats away and put their name tags in the box before they leave.

You'll need ...

DVD player / projector
Song DVD (*Hillsong Kids – Supernatural*)

Name tag box

THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 28 December 08
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate today's Bible story and concept by making a traditional Christingle orange.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / laptop / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory Verse Slide (Isaiah 9:6)
- ✓ Activity: Tables
 - Pre-made Christingle (see Activity section below for instructions and photos)
 - Pre-prepared oranges (one for each child, with a slice of skin cut from the bottom of each orange to create a flat base, and a hole cut into the top using an apple-corer or knife in which the candle will sit)
 - Lengths of red ribbon (one for each child)
 - Double-sided tape and scissors, or pins
 - Cocktail sticks (four for each child)
 - Dishes of dried fruit and small sweets (e.g. *Dolly Mixtures*, *Jelly Beans*, etc.)
 - White candles (one for each child)
 - Squares of tin foil (one for each child)
 - Optional – matches or a cigarette lighter
- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>E. Worship through Music (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing 2 songs together. (<i>I Am Not Forgotten / Everyday</i>) 3. Open in prayer. 4. Kids should remain standing for the following activity. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i></p>
<p>F. Memory Verse (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <p><i>"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."</i> Isaiah 9:6</p> <p>*This is a repetition of last week's verse. Kids should be more familiar with the verse today, so you can test their memories later and try to have them recite the verse without seeing it.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask a few questions to recap this morning's story: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who was the King of Judea when Jesus was born and was growing up? <i>Herod</i> - Why was King Herod upset? <i>He heard that there were some foreigners from the east looking for a child king</i> - How did King Herod plan to get rid of this other child king? <i>Herod invited the wise men to a secret meeting at his palace in Jerusalem. He told them to search for the child, and when they found him, they were to come back and tell Herod where the little King was. Herod planned to send his soldiers to Jesus' house to kill Him!</i> - How did the wise men find Jesus? <i>They followed the brightest star in the sky until it stopped over Jesus' house. The star led them to Jesus.</i> - What gifts did the wise men give to Jesus and why? <i>Gold – for a king; frankincense – expensive perfume for God; myrrh – a herb for the dead (they didn't realise at the time, but this showed that Jesus would later die for all the people of the earth to save us from our sin).</i> 3. <i>Explain:</i> The wise men from the east realised that little Jesus was the King of kings; God's promised Saviour of the World. They treated Jesus like the King He was and still is, even though He was just a little child at the time of their visit. Who exactly is Jesus? We have many words to describe Him. Look at what Isaiah wrote hundreds of years before Jesus was born. <i>Show kids the memory verse on screen.</i> Read the verse together. Repeat it a couple of times. 4. Talk about what the verse means – Jesus is the Son born to Mary and Joseph, and to the people of the world. The government will be on His shoulders – means that Jesus is the Ruler of the world. He is in control. Talk about what the names of Jesus mean: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a counsellor is someone who listens and gives advice – Jesus is a wonderful counsellor; - Jesus is God's Son, and He has the power of God in Him – Jesus is mighty; - Even though Jesus was born as a baby, He grew up and 	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Memory verse slide (Isaiah 9:6)</i></p>

<p>still lives now. He is like a father or a daddy to us, wanting the best for us and loving us even when we make mistakes, and He will <i>always</i> be there, forever and ever!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus is part of David's family tree, King David. That means it's a royal family tree, so Jesus could be called a prince – the Prince of peace. Jesus wants to bring peace to your heart and mine – love, joy and peace. <p>5. Repeat the verse with actions. Leave the verse on the screen as it is long and perhaps more difficult for the kids to remember.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For to us a child is born – <i>rock a baby in your arms action</i> - To us a son is given – <i>hold out hands, palms up, as if giving something</i> - And the government will be on his shoulders – <i>pat shoulders</i> - And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor – <i>start with both hands around mouth, and reach up with hands in the air</i> - Mighty God – <i>hold arms up to show muscles</i> - Everlasting Father – <i>with hands at the heart, stretch out sideways to show infinity</i> - Prince of Peace – <i>hold up two fingers and make a peace sign</i> <p>5. Repeat a few times, individually and as a group. If you think the kids are ready, show a blank screen and have them recite the verse without seeing it.</p> <p>6. Finish with a group repetition of the verse with actions.</p>	
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G. Activity	15 minutes	You'll need ...
<p>1. Set up tables as a workspace and have kids find a space around them.</p> <p>2. <i>Explain:</i> Boys and girls, at Christmas it's very important for us to remember the birth of the baby Jesus. We also need to remember that there is much more to the story. Today, we're going to make something which will help us celebrate the whole meaning of Jesus' life, and the reason why He came to earth.</p> <p>3. <i>Show kids your pre-made Christingle.</i> Has anyone ever seen one of these before? It's called a Christingle. The tradition of the Christingle comes from the Czech Republic, but these days they are made in many places, especially in England.</p> <p>4. <i>Explain:</i> Each part of the Christingle has a special meaning. Look closer and listen while I explain so that you can tell your parents later when you take them home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The orange</i> – is the world - <i>The red ribbon</i> – is the blood that Jesus shed when He died on the cross to save all the people from their sin - <i>The dried fruits and sweets</i> – are the good things that the earth provides for us to eat, through the four seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter. - <i>The white candle</i> – is Jesus, the light of the world, who showed God's love to all the people on earth 		<p><i>Tables</i></p> <p><i>Pre-made Christingle</i></p>

<p>5. Give each child a pre-prepared orange. <i>The oranges should have a small slice of skin cut off the bottom to make a flat base on which the orange will sit. They should also have a hole cut in the top, using a knife or apple corer, into which the candle will be inserted.</i></p> <p>6. Give each child a length of red ribbon. Help them to tie and fix the ribbon around the middle of the orange, either using double-sided sticky tape or pins.</p> <p>7. Give each child 4 cocktail sticks. Set out dishes of small sweets and dried fruit on the tables. Help kids to skewer 3-4 items onto each cocktail stick.</p> <p>8. Help kids to stick the dressed cocktail sticks into the top half of their orange at equal intervals, representing the four seasons.</p> <p>9. Give each child a white candle and a piece of tin foil. Help them to wrap the foil around the bottom of their candle, and push the candle firmly into the hole in the top of the orange.</p> <p><small>*Idea from http://www.bbc.co.uk/tees/content/articles/2007/12/05/christingle_feature.shtml</small></p> <p>10. Tidy up and set tables to the side.</p>	<p><i>Pre-prepared oranges</i></p> <p><i>Lengths of red ribbon</i> <i>Double-sided tape or pins</i> <i>Scissors</i> <i>Cocktail sticks</i> <i>Dishes of small sweets and dried fruit</i></p> <p><i>White candles</i> <i>Squares of tin foil</i></p>
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<p>H. Conclusion (with puppets)</p> <p>1. Ask one boy and one girl if they can recite the memory verse. The puppets / another leader will judge if they deserve a prize. Award the prizes.</p> <p>2. Ask kids if they remember the significance of each element of the Christingle: <i>orange – the world; red ribbon – Jesus' blood shed for the world; sweets and fruit – the good things the earth provides for us; candle – Jesus is the light of the world.</i></p> <p>3. Have kids stand in a circle. If you think it is safe to do so, light the Christingle candles. Turn out the lights and lead the kids in singing <i>Away in a Manger</i>, a <i>cappella</i>, or with an instrument if preferred.</p> <p>4. Close in prayer. Encourage kids to tell someone at home tonight about the message of the Christingle – that Jesus is the Light of the world.</p> <p>5. Extinguish the candles. Remind kids to come back next week! Make sure kids leave their name tags in the box before they leave.</p>	<p>5 minutes</p> <p>You'll need ... <i>Small prizes – bookmarks, stickers, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Matches or a cigarette lighter</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
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