

Gifts for Baby Jesus

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 23, Kindergarten

Lesson 23 Goal

- Your child will become better acquainted with the Nativity story (with particular focus on the visitation of the Magi) and will be introduced to the idea that Jesus came for all human-kind.

Key Points

- The Magi came from far away to bring gifts for Baby Jesus.
- Jesus came for all people.



Parent Reflection

Scripture tells us the story of the three “wise men” who came from the east, following an astronomical phenomenon that their tradition told them would announce the birth of a new king (Matthew 2:1–11). The three wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh may seem to us to be unusual gifts for a baby. All three were quite rare and expensive in Jesus’ time, but these gifts carry an even deeper meaning. The gift of gold, often reserved for kings and those in the highest places of honor, was a sign that Jesus truly was king, though not of an earthly kingdom, but a heavenly one. The gift of frankincense, most often associated with prayer and religious ceremony, was a sign that he would be a priest—one who led the people in worship to God, the great High Priest, to be more precise. The gift of myrrh was a sign of Jesus’ impending sacrifice of himself. Myrrh was used to anoint bodies for burial, and this gift shows us that from the very beginning of Jesus’ life on earth, it was God’s plan for him to give his whole self in love to us—even if it meant death on a cross. These three priceless, rare, and unusual gifts were for the one who was born King, Priest, and Sacrificial Lamb.

Reflection Question

What gifts do I offer Jesus in my own life?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Activity Master #20
- adult scissors (adult use only)
- tissue paper
- glue
- string or yarn
- hole puncher

- globe or world map
- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Masters #2 and #20 (included with this lesson).
- Precut the tissue paper using Activity Master #20 as a pattern for the star.

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: “Now that we are in this prayerful space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God.”

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, “Sometimes we call Jesus ‘Emmanuel.’ That means God-with-us. Jesus was born so that he could be “God-with-us.” Not just us in this room, but all of us, everybody who has ever lived or lives on earth.”

Pick up the globe and hold it on your lap (or point to the map).

Say, “This is a wonderful and joyful gift for all the people of the world! Let’s say a thank you prayer with children of other places in the world. I’ll spin the globe (point on the map) and you touch the spinning globe (map). Wherever your finger ends up [when the globe stops spinning], will be the country we will pray with.”

Spin the globe slowly and encourage a prayerful attitude (or have your child point to different

parts on the map). The child stops the globe. Read the name of the country aloud.

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Parent: *Dear Jesus, with the children of (name of country),*

Together: *we thank you for being “God-with-us.”*

Allow your child several opportunities to choose a country and pray the response.

Discovering

Three Special Visitors. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about the Magi

Ask your child, “What gift would you give Jesus?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child's understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. The Magi Bring Gifts for Baby Jesus. Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. Star of Bethlehem. Give your child a copy of the Activity Master #20. Invite him or her to glue the precut square tissue paper onto their star. Punch a hole on the top of the star and lace string or yarn for hanging as an ornament.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Lucy. Show your child the picture of Saint Lucy on the Family Activity page and read about her. Then

read more about Saint Lucy to your child (see below).

Ask your child:

- “What does the name Lucy mean?” (*light*)
- “How can you be a light to others?”
- “What is your favorite part of the story?” Why?

Have your child write and draw about Saint Lucy using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

Dear Jesus, with the children of the whole world we thank you for being “God-with-us.” Amen.

Saint Lucy

Bringing the Light

A very long time ago, before a lot of people knew about Jesus, a young woman named Lucy loved Jesus very much. It took courage to be a Christian, a follower of Jesus. At that time, there were many people who did not like Christians and how they lived. Sadly because of this, Lucy died when she was just a teenager.

Many years passed, but people remembered Lucy, her kindness, her bravery, and her love of

Jesus. Over these years, people thought of wonderful ways to celebrate Lucy. Her name means “light,” so on her feast day, they light candles in the dark early morning. These “Lucy candles” show us that Lucy helps us know Jesus, the Light of the World. Through the dark, they walk with the candles. Then they sing, eat treats, and enjoy their morning together as the days get closer to the birthday of Jesus, the Light of the World.

DRAW



**Saint
Lucy,
pray for us!**