

JANUARY 6, 2017
EPIPHANY
OF OUR LORD



God leads the nations to Jesus through a star.

EPIPHANY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect upon these Bible passages as part of your Epiphany celebration.

Friday	Matthew 2:1-12	Wise men worship Jesus
	Psalms 72	Kings will present him gifts

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EPIPHANY

“Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” **Matthew 2:2 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Epiphany:

Lord Jesus, help us to shine like stars for you today, so that others are led to know and worship you. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Christ our light, shine upon us. Refresh us through this meal to reflect your love to others. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the mystery of God’s love unite all of God’s people, guide you in the light of Jesus and bring you great joy.



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A HYMN FOR EPIPHANY

*Bright and Glorious
Is the Sky*



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time you went to see someone special.
- God used a star to lead the wise men to see the child Jesus. What or who has God used to lead you to Jesus?
- In what ways could you be a “star” that points to Jesus?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Isaiah 60:1-6.

This Old Testament reading for Epiphany is clearly connected to the story of wise men coming from the east to worship Jesus. The prophet’s message of salvation includes the Gentile nations coming to the light of Israel. Ephesians 3:1-12 emphasizes the unity of Jew and Gentile that Christ brings. Reflect on how Christ comes into our world to bring all people together through his work of divine forgiveness. Conclude with the following prayer for Christian unity and peace on earth:

Dear God, please make us wise enough to seek Jesus and work with other Christians to bring comfort and peace to our world. Amen.

SERVICE



The wise men brought gifts to present to the child Jesus. Make up some small surprise gifts for people from your congregation. Deliver these into their letterboxes or onto their front porches as an expression of thanks for God’s “surprise gift” of Jesus to you.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The Feast of Epiphany falls on January 6th. For centuries this was the second most important church festival, even more important than Christmas. On this day the church celebrates the time when Jesus was made known to the wider world through the visit of the Magi. Epiphany is also traditionally associated with the blessing of homes as a place to welcome friends and strangers (i.e., Magi from the East). Prepare a mixture of perfumed water (symbolizing the gifts of the wise men), gather a piece of chalk, and light a candle to symbolize Christ. Go from room to room as a group. Sprinkle each room with the perfumed water and say these words: **Lord Jesus, please bless this room and all that takes place here. Light this room and our lives with your presence. Amen.** After you have gone throughout your home, write above your entrance door in chalk: “20+C+M+B+17” as you sing or listen to *We Three Kings*. (It stands for the year 2017, the traditional names of Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar given to the wise men, and also for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which is Latin for “Christ, bless this home.”) Keep this inscription above your doorway until Pentecost.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org