

JANUARY 6, 2018
EPIPHANY OF
THE LORD



All nations will come to worship the Lord Jesus.

EPIPHANY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Epiphany celebrations.

Saturday	Matthew 2:1-12	The visit of the wise men
	Psalms 72	Prayer for a righteous king

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EPIPHANY

On entering the house, [the wise men] saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Epiphany:

Lord Jesus, we have come to worship you. We give you the gift of our hearts. Amen. (Matthew 2:11)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you light our path and make bright our days; receive our gifts of thanks and praise. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God lead you to see and worship Jesus. May God fill you with great joy. (Matthew 2:10-11)



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HYMN FOR EPIPHANY

We Three Kings



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- When have you traveled a long distance to see someone special?
- The wise men saw a star to lead them to Jesus. What draws you to Jesus?
- How are you like the wise men traveling to find the one born to be the Messiah?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 2:1-12.

The wise men were guided by a star in their search for Jesus, the newborn king. As Christians, we are “stars” that God uses to point other people to Jesus (see Ephesians 3:7-10). Talk about how your life can be a light that shines for Jesus. Cut out star shapes and write on these stars the different ways you can “shine” for Jesus before others. Pray the following:

Pray: Dear God, just as you guided the wise men with a star and led others like Paul to help people see the boundless riches of Christ, may we be your messengers of the good news of Christ for the world. Amen.

SERVICE



Visit someone who is homebound and could use a friendly visit. Use portions of *Taking Faith Home* to encourage them with the good news of Christ for the world. Make or buy some treats to leave with them to enjoy.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



For centuries Epiphany Day (January 6) was the second most important church festival, even more important than Christmas. The church celebrates the time when Jesus was made known to the wider world through the visit of the wise men (Magi). Epiphany is also associated with the blessing of homes as a place to welcome friends and strangers (i.e., Magi for the East). During Advent, we light candles each week as we await the birth of Christ. They symbolize Jesus as the light of the world. The Magi followed a star that led them to Jesus. In remembrance of this journey, light a candle during your devotion time reminding you of the star the Magi followed to the Christ child. Bless one another:

Lord Jesus, light this room and our lives with your presence. Amen.



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