

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition

Sunday 3rd January

based on the readings for
Epiphany (Jan 6th)



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

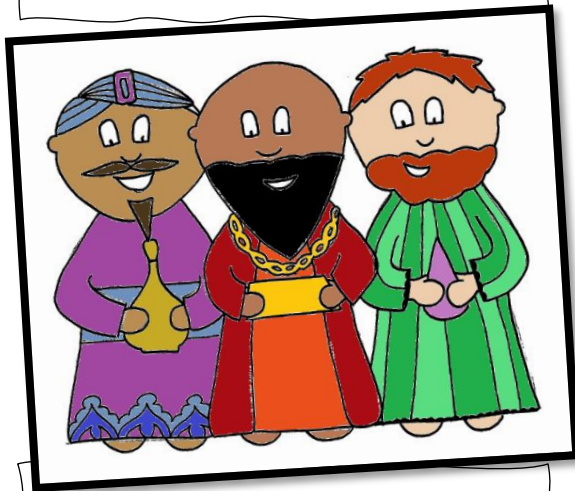
Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of the Magi.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Matthew 2 v 1–12

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of the magi and the gifts that remind us of who you are. Help us to come to know you as the King of Kings and to recognise your Holiness. Thank you for your death on the cross for us and the salvation we have through you.

Help us to share your gift of love with others, to help them seek you and accept your gift of salvation for themselves.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why do you think the magi brought Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh were very expensive and precious gifts, the magi thought they were visiting a King and a palace so they chose costly gifts.

God had a bigger plan, the King of Kings was born in a stable not a palace. The three gifts of the magi teach us more about Jesus' identity than they probably realised. Gold reminds us that Jesus was a royal King, Frankincense which was used in the temple reminds us that Jesus is Holy, the ultimate High Priest. Myrrh was used after death to prepare the body; it seems a strange gift for a baby but we know that Jesus had been born to save everybody through his death on the cross and resurrection.

A question for children to ask adults

What is the best present you've ever received?

Family Activity 1

Use the instructions on p3 to fold your own origami stars. You could make them with strips of wrapping paper or any paper you have around.

Thread them onto a string to make a star garland to hang in your house.





A verse to remember

Isaiah 9 v 6

**A child has been born to us; God has given a son to us.
He will be responsible for leading the people.
His name will be Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God,
Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace.**

Read this verse from Isaiah together, there are so many different things to learn about Jesus and who He is to us. Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.

Wise Men Still Seek Him...

Complete this wise man themed scavenger hunt to explore the story further together.



Find something STAR shaped!

The wise men followed a star to find Jesus.

Ask: Who or what can we follow to help draw us closer to Jesus today?

Wonder: What does it feel like to draw closer to Jesus, how does it change us?

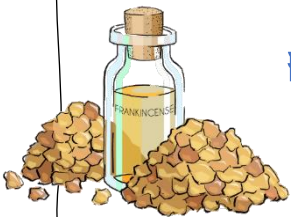


Find something GOLD!

One of the gifts of the wise men was gold, it reminds us of Jesus' royalty, He is the King of Kings!

Ask: What does it mean to be royal?

Wonder: God calls us His children so we must be royalty too. How does my royalty change the way I live?



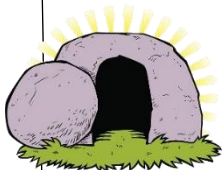
Find something that SMELLS GOOD!

One of the gifts of the wise men was frankincense, the precious incense was used in the temple, it was believed to help carry prayers to God.

Ask: What is your favourite smell?

Wonder: In Psalm 141 David hoped that his prayers would be like a pleasant smell to God. What do you think your prayers smell like?

Find something that reminds you of EASTER!



One of the gifts of the wise men was myrrh, when Jesus died on the cross myrrh was placed on his body before he was placed in the tomb

Ask: What did Mary find in the tomb in the easter story?

Wonder: Do you think the wise men knew what would happen to Jesus when they chose their gifts?

Family Activity 2

You will need: An empty box, a blindfold/scarf, some random items from around the house.

Play a game of 'guess the gift' take it in turns to wear the blindfold. One random object is placed in the box, just using your sense of touch, hearing and smell can you work out what is in the box?



Active Waiting

Spend some time waiting on God together as a family and listening. Our helper the Holy Spirit has many gifts to share with us, why not ask for a new gift today?

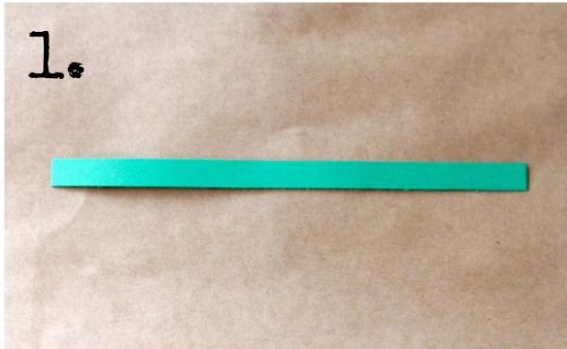
You can download a 'Listening to God' resource at :

www.TatH.co.uk/other-resources

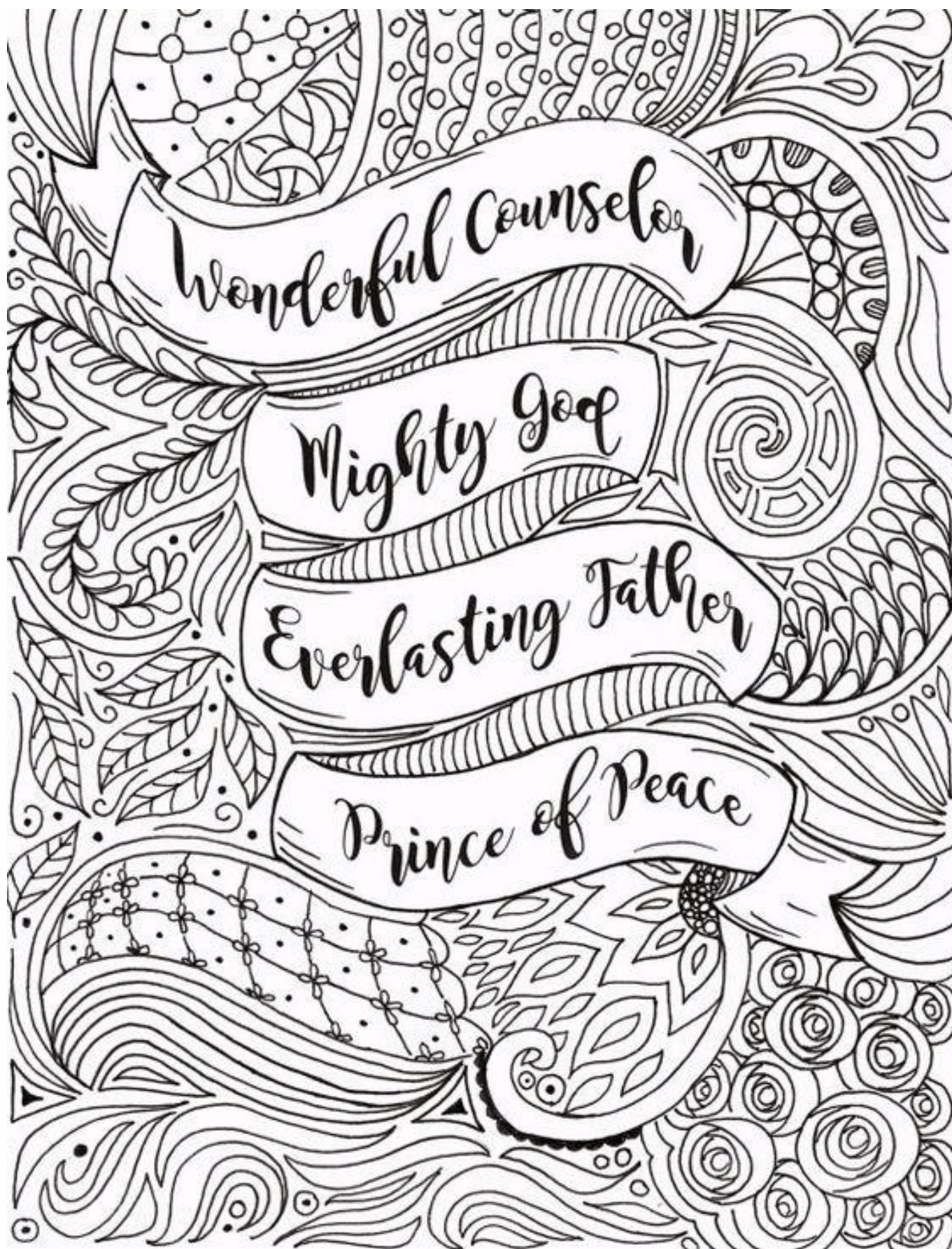


Origami Stars

Instruction images from www.alyssaandcarla.com



A colouring page you could print and colour together



PUZZLE SHEET

How many presents can you find on the page?



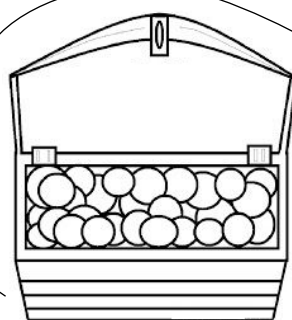
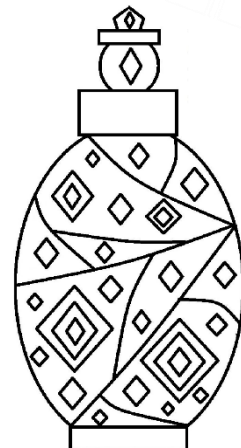
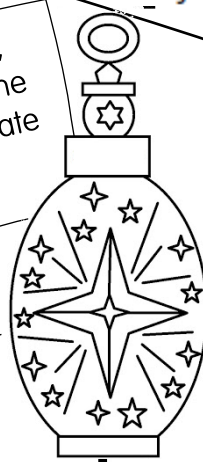
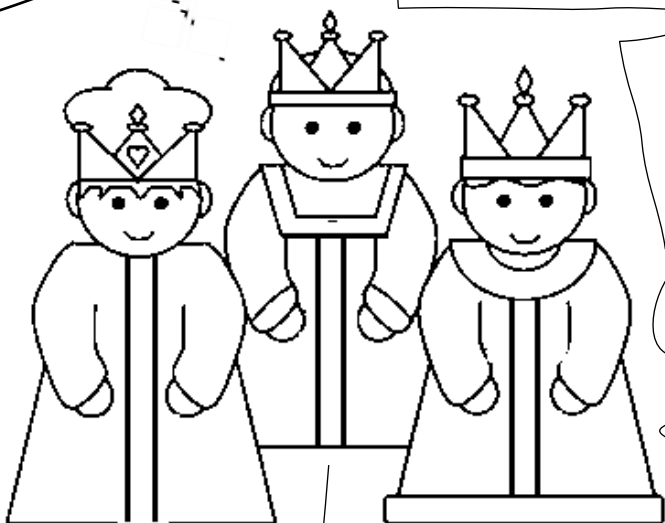
Can you find all these words in the star wordsearch?

- magi
- star
- gold
- frankincense
- myrrh
- gifts
- king
- palace
- epiphany



Can you match each of the magi to their gift?

Colour each gift, then use the same colours to decorate their magi!



z u
k y
a n i m
s g q f
i a t s e x
m h f a h u
r w h f y l o a w z r r m h e j o e h e
l n w u r t b a e r p f p p t g b r v d
k u t m a b g y m g a i t d o g l x
t p e w n m e u e p l g k i c l
o a g d k q k h p d a u s k
c c f u i a n q c g c i
k l i s a n n f m b h n e p
n z c t y n y c l y g o j i
n b g a a w m v k e d a l s a f
b c o k f f j f n h p m e j
r q x l j f x d s t f i g u
b z y d g e e h f p
c l m f z y u a
r r w j