

JANUARY 6, 2015
EPIPHANY

taking+ faith home

A light shines for the nations.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Matthew 2:1-12	The visit of the wise men
Monday	1 Kings 10:1-13	The queen of Sheba visits Solomon
Tuesday	Isaiah 60:1-6	Nations will come to your light
Wednesday	Matthew 2:13-18	The escape to Egypt
Thursday	Matthew 2:19-23	The return to Nazareth
Friday	John 19:38-42	Nicodemus brings myrrh
Saturday	Psalms 72:1-4	Kings will present him gifts
Sunday	Genesis 1:1-5	In the beginning

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And going into the house they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.
Matthew 2:11 (RSV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

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 he fill you with great joy. Amen. (Matthew 2:10-11)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Where do you go to worship Jesus? What do you do to worship him?
- The wise men went on a long and difficult trip to visit Jesus. What does that say about them? What does it say about Jesus?
- The wise men brought special gifts to give to Jesus. What gifts would you have given to him? Why?

DEVOTIONS

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 Philippians 2:15-16). Cut out star shapes from yellow or gold paper. Write on these stars the different ways you can “shine” for Jesus before others. Attach these stars to the ceiling of your home. Pray together that God may use you to draw others to know and worship Jesus as their King.

SERVICE

A bright star guided the wise men to the home of Jesus. Bake or prepare star-shaped cookies to give away as gifts to children in your church or local community.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Enjoy a special Epiphany cake as a dessert this week. An Epiphany cake is traditionally a spice cake but another type of cake will do. Cut out a circle piece from the center of the cake so that it looks like a crown. Place yellow, orange, and red gumdrops or another colorful candy around the edge as jewels for the crown. Inside the cake hide three foil-wrapped coins - one for each of the wise men's gifts. Those who find the coins are to lead a procession around the house. To symbolize the frankincense brought to Jesus, have your wise men carry a lit scented candle. In each room, ask a different household member to name a gift, a personal expression of love to someone who needs it, they would like to offer in honor of Jesus.



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