



“Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

Daniel 12:3

The story of the wise men at Christmas makes for really great pageantry. In Christmas programs, they wear fancy robes, they bring expensive and rare gifts, they ride camels and they follow a supernatural star. What is it about that star that was so special? What can we learn from the faith the wisemen had in that star?

The star they were following, signaled the birth of Jesus and pointed the way to the manger. “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:2. Their belief was so strong, they were willing to set off on a years long journey in order to spend time with the Savior and to worship him. Just as the wisemen had the star, God sends people into our lives who shine bright and help us to find the manger as well. Perhaps your guide was a parent, a pastor, a friend or even a stranger. Their love and their faith was so compelling, that their light enabled you to find your way to the Savior.



As Christians, we are called to shine bright with the love of the Lord, just like that Christmas star shone long ago. The light in our hearts inspires us to share that love with others. St. Theresa of Avila wrote, *“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has not body now on earth but yours.”* My hope is that all of us will feel the love of God so strongly this Christmas that our love will shine as bright as the Christmas star, and just like the wise men were led to the manger, our love can point others there as well.

Focusing on the Star:

- Bundle up and go outside each night this week. Find a bright star in the sky (and we’ll definitely have one to look at this year) and think about how glad the wise men were when they found Jesus.
- Breathe in the peacefulness and think about and give thanks for the people God has sent into your life who have been guides like the Christmas star, helping you to find Jesus.
- Think about how you can use your talents and your faith to honor God and be a star to others.



Thank you God for sending Jesus to the world. Thank you for sending a Savior and for the hope and joy that brings to all. God, use me to point to Jesus, allow my light to be bright, allow me to be your light in the world. Help my focus stay on Jesus and not get distracted by how others may respond to it. My joy is in you.



Christmas Star

*A diamond shines no brighter than that lovely Christmas star.
It shines in all its brilliance; it's seen from near or far.
A symbol of the Christ child as He lay upon the hay,
It tells to all the waiting world a King was born that day.*

*O Bethlehem Star keep shining – give us faith and hope and love.
Keep our thoughts forever turning to the Savior up above.
Give us strength and hope and courage to do our best by far
And never falter in our faith as we watch that Christmas star*

- Author Unknown



Kids's Activity: Christmas Scavenger Hunt

Here's a neat way to share the Christmas story with your kids. It's a scavenger hunt that involves following a star (just like the wisemen) around the house in order to find the gift of Christmas.

[Star Scavenger Hunt](#)



How can we best keep Christmas?

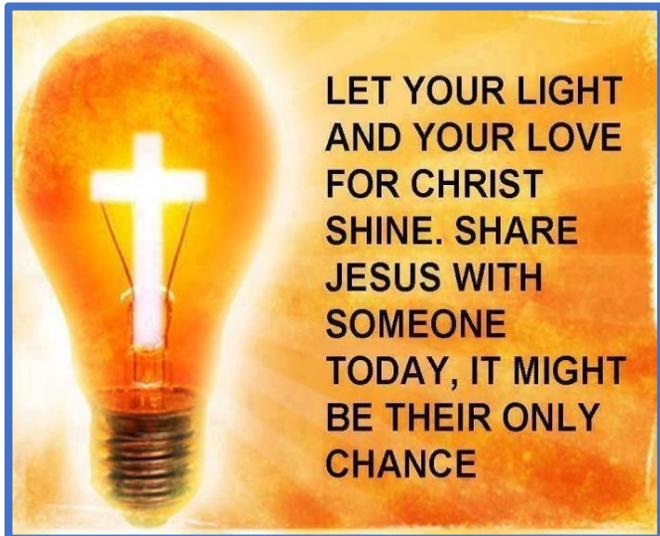
- *By following the star on an inward journey to Bethlehem and to stand again in awe and wonder before the Babe in a manger*
- *By rediscovering the kingdom of heaven through the faith and simplicity of a little child*
- *By being still and listening to the angels sing within our hearts*
- *By resolving to give ourselves away to others in love, joy, and devotion.*



Craft Project: Wise Men Puppets

Here's a fun project to bring out your creative side. Using tissue paper and a few other simple items, Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar can be decorated however you want. So dig out the glitter and the sequins and let your inner fashion designer out.

[Tissue Paper Wise Men](#)



**LET YOUR LIGHT
AND YOUR LOVE
FOR CHRIST
SHINE. SHARE
JESUS WITH
SOMEONE
TODAY, IT MIGHT
BE THEIR ONLY
CHANCE**

