

Feast of the Epiphany



Overview

The Gospel of Matthew (Mt. 2:1-12) reminds us that Jesus came for the whole world and that we are called to continue to follow the light of His message and share it with others; to live fully in and for Christ, and to be His missionary by sharing the gift of the Gospel.

Materials needed:

- Various magazines and newspapers depicting missionary actions. Use publications such as *MISSION Magazine* (published by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, a Pontifical Mission Society like the Missionary Childhood Association) or similar publications from missionary religious orders and organizations.
- Mural paper
- Glue sticks/glue
- Scissors

1. Read Matthew 2:1-12. Allow a few moments of quiet, then lead a group discussion using the following questions:
2. Does anyone know the names given to the Three Wise Men? *Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar*
3. Where did the Magi come from?

The Bible only tells us they are from the "East." However, Venerable Bede (672-735) considered them representatives of the three continents, Europe, Asia and Africa. They are often portrayed racially as white, Asian and black.

4. What were the three gifts they brought to the baby Jesus?

Gold, frankincense (incense) and myrrh (a scent often used in perfume). The gold is symbolic for the royalty of Jesus; the frankincense stands for His divinity; the myrrh, often used to scent the oils used to anoint a body for burial, points to His passion and death.

5. The Magi "made known" to the world that Jesus -- Lord and King -- was born. The Feast of Epiphany reminds all Catholics that we are called to reveal Jesus as the Savior to all people. What are some ways that our parish or school reaches out to our community to bring the Good News of Jesus? What are some ways that we as a group can reach out to other young people?

6. Why is important to remember the story of the Magi each year?

Their story reminds us that Jesus came for the whole world, not just for the Jewish people.

7. Divide your class into small groups and explain that each group will make murals depicting people and situations that are in need of receiving the message of Jesus, using pictures from magazines and newspapers.

8. When students finish, hang murals around the room give groups time to walk around studying them.

9. Gather the groups back into a single class to reflect on the following:

- After looking at all the murals, do you think there are enough missionaries bringing the message and love of Jesus in the world? Do you see yourself as a missionary?
- The Church teaches us that by our Baptism we are called to be missionaries of Jesus. What can you do as young people to bring the Good News of Jesus love and salvation to all?