

Art Extra

Wise Men

Grades 5–6

Symbol Monoprints

Kids make prints of Christian symbols as framed art to remind them that God's love draws and invites us all, including the most wise.

Spark Resources:

- None

Supplies:

- Acrylic plastic, one or more sheets
- Newspaper
- Whiteboard or chart paper and supplies
- Acrylic paints
- Shallow foam plates or bowls
- Paintbrushes
- Watercolor paper
- Dishpan
- Water
- Paper towels
- Permanent marker (optional)

Set Up:

Purchase sheets of acrylic plastic or inexpensive acrylic picture frame "glass." Practice the monoprint painting technique. Cover the worktable with newspaper. Pour paint onto plates or into bowls.

Instructions:

In today's story, the wise men went to find Jesus because they knew that this little baby was something very special. God sending of Jesus into the world was an extraordinary event. God's love draws and invites us all, including the most wise. We're going to use an art technique today called a "monoprint" to make some really cool art that will help us remember this story.

A monoprint is a way to make a print of a painting, but it is never exactly the same as the original print. Let's think about some of the Christian symbols you know—I'll write them on the whiteboard as you name them. Allow time for kids to respond. Now let's use some of those symbols to make monoprints. I'll explain how to do this.

1. Show kids the acrylic sheet and paint a simple design on it, such as a cross with some swirls around the edges.

2. **Now soak the watercolor paper in the water until it is just getting wet—there.**
3. **Next, shake the water drops off of the paper, then lay it directly on top of the acrylic sheet. Press down and rub in a circular motion to make a print on the paper.**
4. **Lift up the paper—there! A monoprint.** Take a piece of paper towel. **We can wipe the paint off of this acrylic sheet and start over with another design and another piece of paper.**
5. Invite kids to take turns painting on the acrylic, making their own monoprint, and wiping the acrylic sheet clean for the next kid.

Your monoprints are beautiful—and all different! When the paint dries, you can frame them as a reminder that God's love draws and invites us all, even the most wise.

If you have less time . . .

Use a permanent marker to trace Christian symbols on the acrylic sheets prior to class time. Invite kids to take turns painting inside the design and make their prints using the monoprint technique.

If you have more time . . .

Purchase enough inexpensive picture frames or other acrylic sheets so that each kid has one. Work together to make a mural or large display of monoprints by having the kids create their prints using complementary colors—colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel like red with green, orange with blue, or yellow with violet. Once the prints are made, line them up in a grid and display them in a hallway or some other central location in the church building.