

# Large Group Opening

## Wise Men

Scripture Reference: Matthew 2:1–12

### Large Group Opening

Welcome to the Large Group Opening for Wise Men. Enjoy your time (about 10 minutes) with kids as you sing, learn, and pray together. Choose a song to get things started, move into the object lesson that introduces kids to the story, and finish up your time with a prayer.

### Spark Songs

#### Spark Resources:

- Spark Song CD
- Spark Songbook
- Downloadable Spark Song Lyrics Sheets or Slides

#### Supplies:

- CD player
- Chart paper
- Marker
- Map of your country or the world
- Removable dot stickers
- Pictures of children from different cultures
- Tape

Use one or more of the following Spark Songs during your Large Group Opening. Use them in the order that suits your group's size, format, and time frame.

**Go Tell It on the Mountain (Track 6, Songbook page 32):** Use chart paper to help kids make a list of the different ways they can share great news with people they meet. Do they sing for joy? Share hugs with friends? Encourage kids to try these tactics as they sing of the exciting news of Jesus' birth!

**Jesus Loves the Little Children (Track 11, Songbook page 62):** Bring in a map of your country or the world to post in your gathering space. Before you sing this song, invite kids to come up and place removable dot stickers on faraway places where friends and family live. Invite kids to fill the map further by adding pictures of children from other cultures to emphasize that Jesus loves all children, even if they look different or live far away.

**I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy (Track 10, Songbook page 55):** Teach kids these new verses to remind them of God's awesome love for them!

**I've got the truth of God's love, truth of God's love . . .  
I've got the hope of heaven, hope of heaven . . .  
I've got the urge to praise God, urge to praise God . . .**

## **Introduce the Story**

### **Spark Resources:**

- None

### **Supplies:**

- Pictures of the wise men following the star (from art books or an online search engine)
- Tape or pushpins
- Large star stickers
- Pole with a star attached to the end

Before kids arrive, post the pictures around your gathering space for the follow the leader game. As kids gather, hand out a star sticker to each of them.

**Good morning, kids. Does everyone have a star sticker? Good, because a star is very important in today's lesson. We're going to play a follow the leader game. I'll be the leader and I'll carry this pole with a star hanging off the end. The point of the game is to follow the star wherever it goes.** While carrying the pole, take kids on a walk around the room. Stop to point out the various pictures of the wise men. Then gather everyone back together.

**Like we followed our star this morning, the wise men followed a star to find Baby Jesus. Even though he was just tiny baby, these powerful men travelled very far to see him and honor him. As you go to class today, wear your star sticker as a reminder of how mighty and important Jesus was, even when he was a little baby.**

Talk about these questions?

- How do you think the wise men felt as they followed the star to Bethlehem?
- What was your favorite picture of the wise men on the star walk?
- What would you do if you saw a big star in the night sky?

## **Closing Prayer**

### **Spark Resources:**

- None

### **Supplies:**

- None

**Let's say a litany for our today. I'll open, then when you hear the words "oh God," respond with "You will light our way!"**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for sending your Son to be the light for the world.  
Our lives are so much brighter because of your awesome gift.  
We thank you for the light of Jesus, oh God . . . *You will light our way!*  
Even when our path is dark, oh God . . . *You will light our way!*  
Each and every day of our lives, oh God . . . *You will light our way!*  
When we're near or far from home, oh God . . . *You will light our way!*  
Help us to know that we are never alone, God.  
Amen.**