

Daily Bible Readings:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

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	Kings will present him gifts
Sunday	Mark 1:4-11	Jesus is baptized

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Scripture Verse for this Week:

'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'
– Matthew 2:6 (TNIV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

Prayer for this Week:

Lord God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Make all of my life a good gift to you. Amen. (Matthew 2:1-2,9-11)

For Throughout the Day:

Lord Jesus, please be my guiding star. Amen. (Matthew 2:1-2)

A Blessing to Share:

May God guide you with his light, and shepherd you as his lamb. Amen. (Matthew 2:1-2,6)

Mealtime Refrain:

Our Lord Jesus has been born in Bethlehem:
Let us go and worship him. (Matthew 2:8-9)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you light our path and make bright our days, Receive our gifts of thanks and praise. Amen.



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Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a memorable trip you were part of.
- Wise men travelled from the far east to visit the child Jesus, guided by a star. What can you remember about their adventure?
- The wise men brought special gifts to give to Jesus. What gifts would you have taken? Why?

Devotional Practices:

January 6 is the day of Epiphany in the church. The word epiphany means "to show", "to make known" or "to reveal." It is linked to the visit of the wise men who brought royal gifts to the Christ child, "revealing" him to the world as Lord and King. Light is a key image or symbol associated with Epiphany.

As part of your household devotional times this week, read the story of the wise men's visit from a Bible or Bible storybook (Matthew 2:1-12). If possible, act out the story as a household. Discuss what "gifts" you offer to Jesus in your lives. Sing together the carol "We Three Kings".

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:

There are many great household ideas for celebrating Epiphany. Choose one or more for your household.

1. Have a home candlelight evening – turn off all lights and use only candles to guide you. If it is a clear night, take a few minutes to look at the stars.
2. Play dress-ups – put on costumes to represent the wise men.
3. Have an Epiphany treasure hunt – "hide" a baby Jesus figure somewhere in your home and have household members search for it.
4. Make stars out of card and paint them gold or yellow. Hang them throughout your home.
5. An old Epiphany tradition involves hiding small items in cake. On the night before the feast of Epiphany, a special cake would be served with three beans hidden within. Whoever found the beans would be the Kings at the Epiphany feast. In line with this tradition, bake a cake with coins inside. Give those who find the coins a paper crown to wear.

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