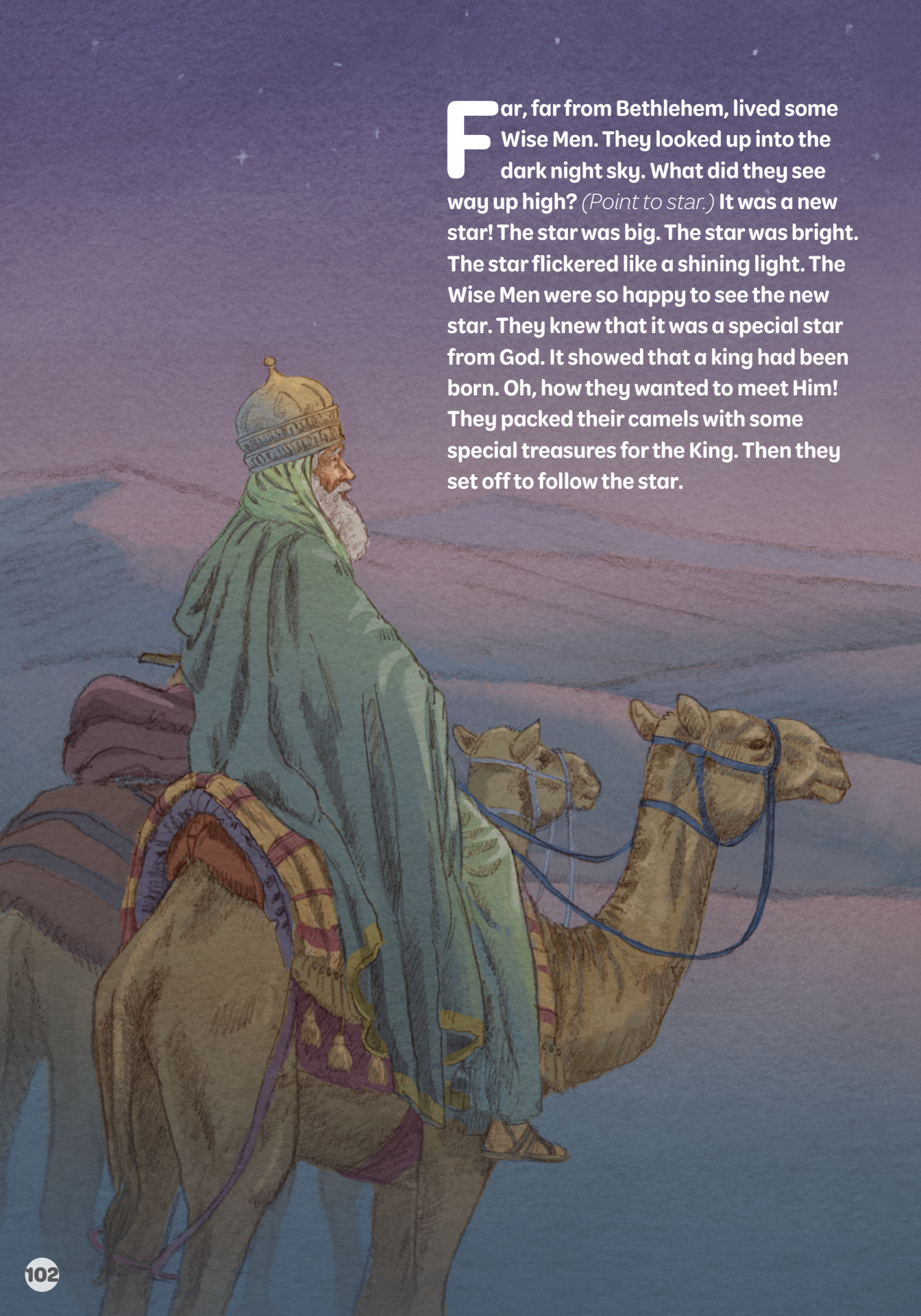
BIG IDEA: Jesus wants me to follow Him.

Week 13

The Wise Men



This lesson is based on Matthew 2:1-12 and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 59-67.

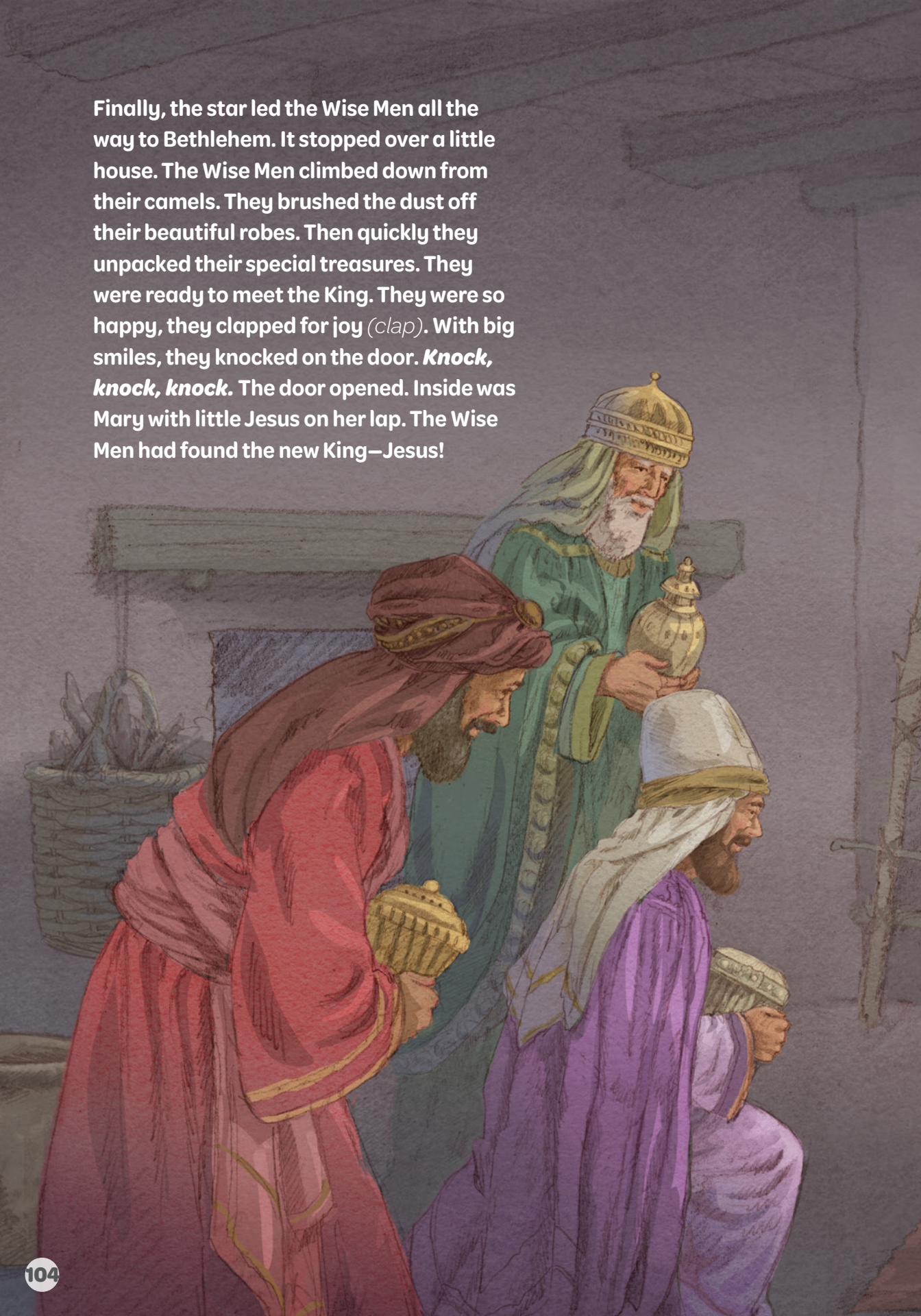


Far, far from Bethlehem, lived some Wise Men. They looked up into the dark night sky. What did they see way up high? *(Point to star.)* **It was a new star! The star was big. The star was bright. The star flickered like a shining light. The Wise Men were so happy to see the new star. They knew that it was a special star from God. It showed that a king had been born. Oh, how they wanted to meet Him! They packed their camels with some special treasures for the King. Then they set off to follow the star.**

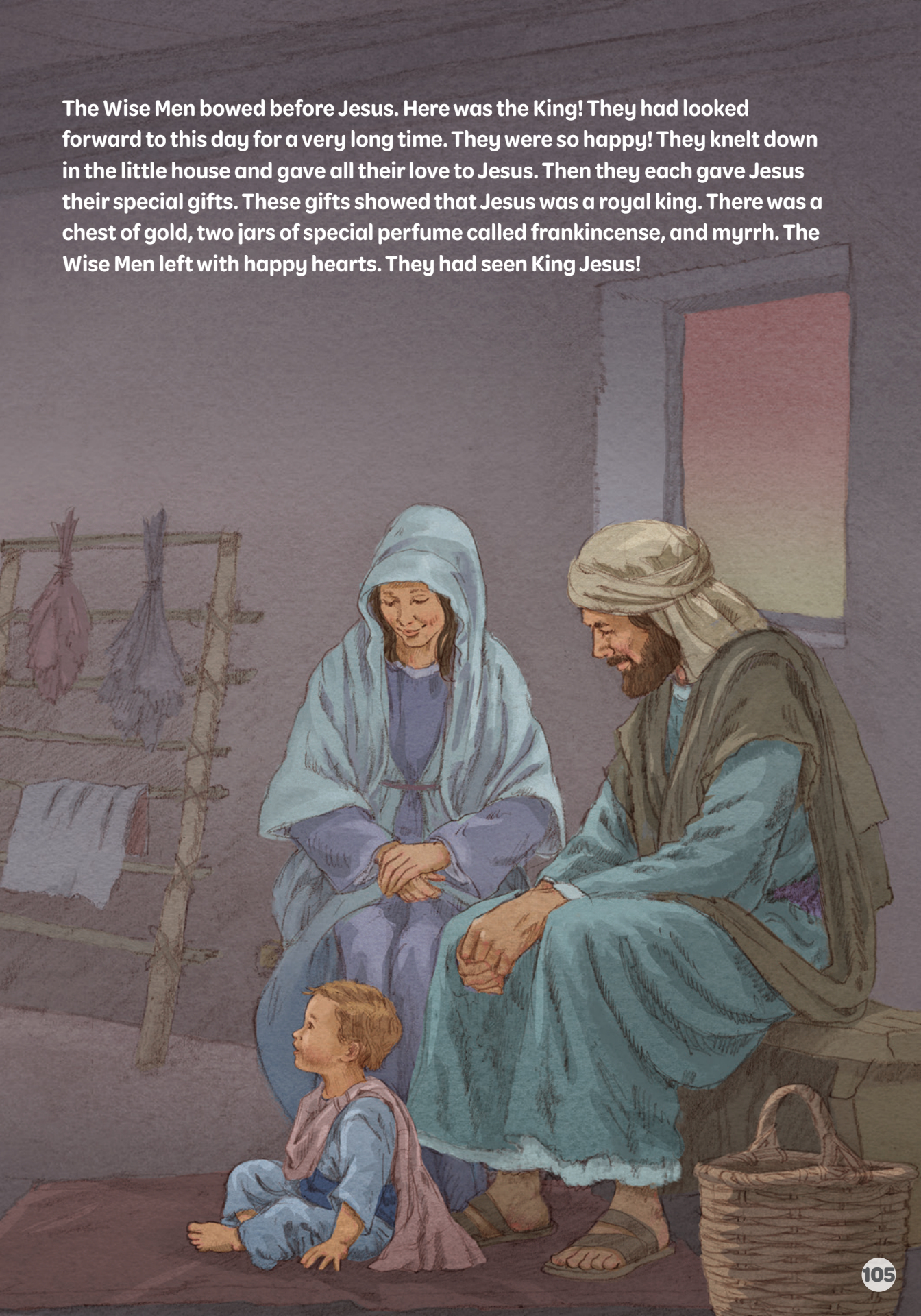


Plod, plod, plod, went the camels. ***Bumpity, bump, bump,*** went the Wise Men on top. It was nighttime, but the Wise Men weren't sleeping. They slept in the daytime. At night, they followed the big, bright star in the sky. They followed the star over the mountains and through winding rivers. They followed the star across hot, sandy deserts and grassy fields. ***Plod, plod, plod,*** went the camels. ***Bumpity, bump, bump,*** went the Wise Men on top. Days went by. Weeks went by. Every night, when the sky was bright, the Wise Men followed the star.

Finally, the star led the Wise Men all the way to Bethlehem. It stopped over a little house. The Wise Men climbed down from their camels. They brushed the dust off their beautiful robes. Then quickly they unpacked their special treasures. They were ready to meet the King. They were so happy, they clapped for joy *(clap)*. With big smiles, they knocked on the door. ***Knock, knock, knock.*** The door opened. Inside was Mary with little Jesus on her lap. The Wise Men had found the new King—Jesus!



The Wise Men bowed before Jesus. Here was the King! They had looked forward to this day for a very long time. They were so happy! They knelt down in the little house and gave all their love to Jesus. Then they each gave Jesus their special gifts. These gifts showed that Jesus was a royal king. There was a chest of gold, two jars of special perfume called frankincense, and myrrh. The Wise Men left with happy hearts. They had seen King Jesus!



The Wise Men carefully followed the big, bright star. It led them to Jesus. Jesus is like a lovely bright star in our lives too. He wants us to follow Him. He shows us the best way to live and helps us make the right choices. When we follow Him, we choose His way, and become more like Him.

(Say together) **Dear God, thank You for the Wise Men who followed the star. I want to be like them and follow Jesus. Amen.**



play
Throughout the Day

Explore
Set up a cubby house. Use fairy lights, flashlights, or candles (with careful adult supervision) to shine light inside the cubby house. Read the story again, sitting close with your child. Share how the Wise Men never gave up following the star. We can choose to always follow Jesus too.

Play
Act out the story together, dressing up as Wise Men. You may also like to be a camel and give your child a ride *(plod, plod, plod; bumpity, bump, bump)*. Have fun finding or making some props to be the three gifts for King Jesus.

Serve
The Wise Men had three very special gifts to give Jesus. What gifts can you give Jesus? One gift we can give Jesus is to love and serve people around us. See if you can brainstorm an act of kindness to do every day this week for someone else, OR use the ideas below:

Sunday: Make a healthy treat to eat and give to neighbors or friends.
Monday: Write a card to someone you know who lives far away or someone who is lonely. Put it in the mail together.
Tuesday: Look through clothes/toys you may have grown out of and donate to charity.
Wednesday: Today, ask your child to surprise you by doing a job without being asked. See if you can spot them doing it.
Thursday: Choose some Christian books you would like to give children who don't have many. Donate them or wrap them up and give them to someone you know.
Friday: When eating supper together, go around the circle and share something you love about each person in your family.
Sabbath: Invite someone to your house for a special Sabbath lunch. You could hand-deliver an invitation.

Pray
The Wise Men kept following the star. Ask Jesus to help your family to always follow Jesus.



Extension weekly memory verse: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' " (John 14:6).

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

The Wise Men were from a different land, far from Israel. Yet their hearts were open to God. With every step the Wise Men followed God's leading. They were obedient to their calling. They diligently followed the star. They searched the Scriptures. They even stopped to ask for help. What an example! God's own children didn't know enough about Him to even take the short trip of 5.6 miles (9 kilometers) from Jerusalem to Bethlehem.

"While they had the star before them as an outward sign, they had also the inward evidence of the Holy Spirit, which was impressing their hearts, and inspiring them with hope" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 60).

The Wise Men looked up. They got their direction and their purpose from above. They didn't allow themselves to become distracted or discouraged along the way. They listened to the Holy Spirit, and they just kept following.

How many times do we get distracted by the things around us and forget to look up? All we ever need is found in Jesus and the wonderful saving truths in His Word, the Bible. Look to Jesus for confidence and encouragement. Because when He is our source of light, we too can share His light with others.

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1, 2).

