
Lesson 2: The Visit of the Wise Men

BIG IDEA

The wise men understood that Jesus was the promised King of the Jews and God's king for people from all nations.

 **Matthew 2:1-12 (paraphrase)**

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. King Herod ruled Judea. Some wise men came to Jerusalem from the East. They asked, 'Where is the baby who is the King of the Jews? We saw his star in the sky. We have come to worship him.'

Herod heard what the men from the East were saying. He was worried. He asked the leaders 'Where will God's Messiah be born?' They replied, 'In Bethlehem, as the prophet said a long time ago.'

Herod secretly said to the men, 'Look everywhere for this child. Tell me where he is so that I can also worship him.'

The wise men followed the star. It stopped above the place where the child was staying. They bowed down and worshipped him. They gave gifts to him.

God told them in a dream, 'Do not go back to Herod.' So, the men took a different route to their own country.



Teacher Preparation

Read Key Verses

- Matthew 2:1-12 in your Bible
- Matthew 2:1-12 paraphrase (on page 21)

Read *Meet Jesus Book*

- Chapter 2 – The Visit of the Wise Men

Print Resources

- APPENDIX 2.1 - Print 1 for the group.
- APPENDIX 2.2 - Print 1 for the group.
- APPENDIX 2.3 - Print 1 for the group in A4 or A3.
- APPENDIX 2.4 - Print 1 for the whole group.
Cut into squares.
- APPENDIX 2.5 - Print 1 for the teacher's reference.
- APPENDIX 2.6 - Print 1 for each student.
- APPENDIX 1.5 - Reuse print from lesson one.

Other Equipment Needed:

- Whiteboard / table
- Whiteboard markers

Activate Prior Knowledge and Build Vocabulary

APPENDIX 2.1 - Print 1 for the group.
Place the picture on the table or the board.

APPENDIX 2.2 - Print 1 set for the group. Place the 3 icons next to APPENDIX 2.1, one at a time.

Ask:

- 'What do you see?'
(point to eyes/accept responses)
- 'What do you think?'
(point to thinker/accept responses),
- 'What do you wonder?'
(point to '?'/accept responses).

Prompt, if necessary, by pointing to specific things in the picture. Teacher or helper can summarise responses on the board.

APPENDIX 2.3 - Print 1 for the group in A4 or A3.

Ask:

- 'Where is Judea?', 'Point to...'
Bethlehem; Jerusalem

Pre-teach relevant vocabulary

Messiah: God's promised king who would rule forever

Prophet: a person who speaks a message from God

Worship: to show praise and honour

Predict the Content

Write, 'Wise men visit Jesus' on the board.

Ask, 'What do you think the story will be about?'

OWN HEART LANGUAGE

Depending on the level of your students, you might like to invite them to read the passage in their heart language.

Visit bible.com or biblegateway.com to find a number of international translations.



Read and Comprehend

Depending on the level of your students you might:

- Read the passage of scripture to them;
- Direct them to read the passage of scripture in English;
- Direct them to read the passage of scripture in their heart language; or
- Read the passage of scripture later in the lesson.



Activities

Activity 1: Own language

Draw a star on the board and ask students to teach the word star to the rest of the class in their own language.

Activity 2: Mapping the story (teacher led)

APPENDIX 2.3 - Print 1 for the group in A4 or A3
 APPENDIX 2.4 - Print 1 set for the whole group.
 Cut into squares.
 APPENDIX 2.5 - Print 1 for the group.

Place the map on the table for a small group or the board for a larger group.

Teacher reads Matthew 2:1-12 aloud, using the map and icons as visual cues according to the instructions next to the text (APPENDIX 2.5).

Activity 3: Mapping the story (student led)

APPENDIX 2.3 - Print 1 for the group in A4 or A3
 APPENDIX 2.4 - Print 1 set for the whole group.
 Cut into squares.

Keep map displayed. Distribute icons between the students. Re-read the text. Invite students to place icons on the map at the right time. Prompt with body language.

Activity 4: Reading the story

APPENDIX 2.6 - Print 1 for each student.

Students to read aloud to each other in pairs.

Activity 5: Bringing it all together

APPENDIX 2.3 - Print 1 for the group in A4 or A3.
 APPENDIX 2.4 - Print 1 set for the whole group.
 Cut into squares.
 APPENDIX 2.6 - Print 1 for each student.

Regroup. Teacher places visuals on the map one at a time and invites the students individually to read the corresponding text.

With an advanced group this retelling can be done from memory. If time allows, you might like to invite a student to retell the story in their own words, using the symbols/map.

Invite Curiosity

APPENDIX 1.5 - Reuse print from lesson one.

Place the ? on the table and ask:

- Are there any new words?'
- What questions might someone have about this text?
- What comments might someone have about the text?

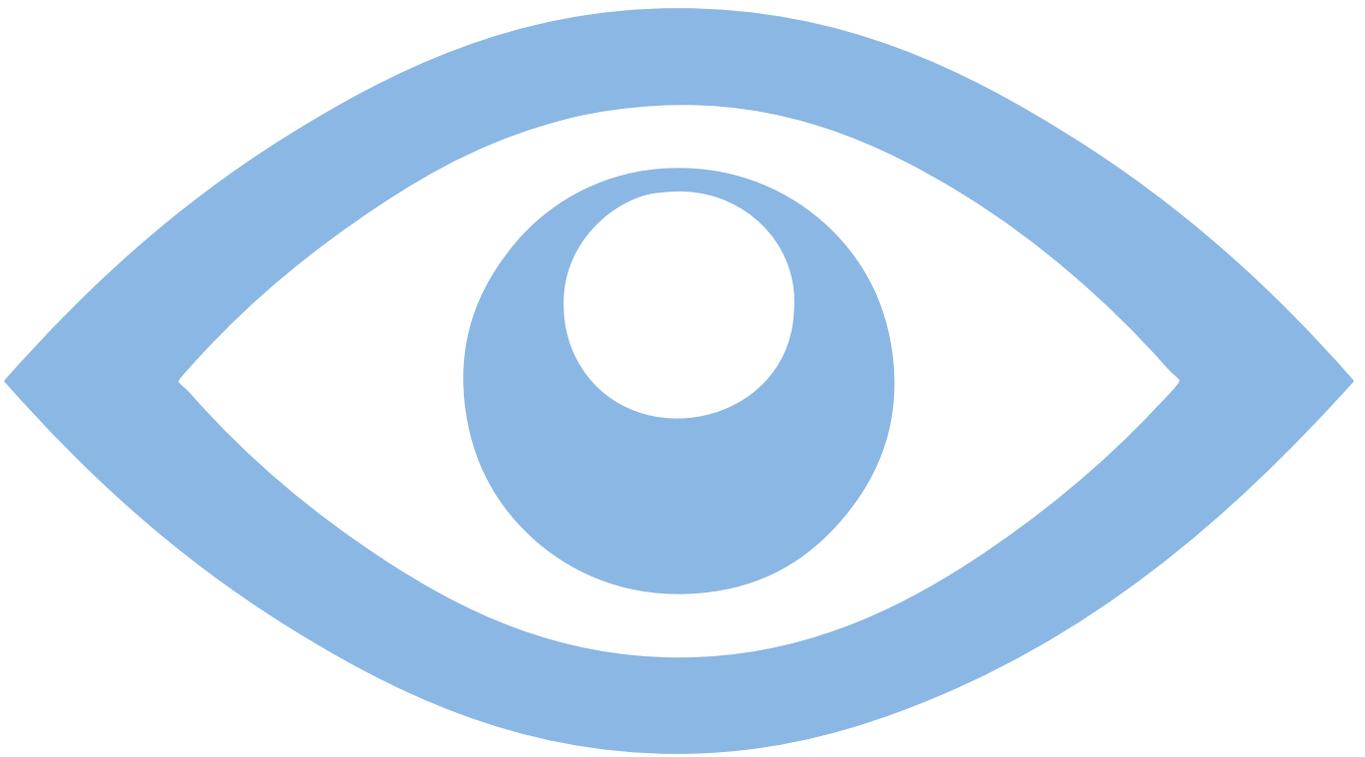
An Important Question

Ask, 'What does this text say about Jesus?'

Concluding Statement

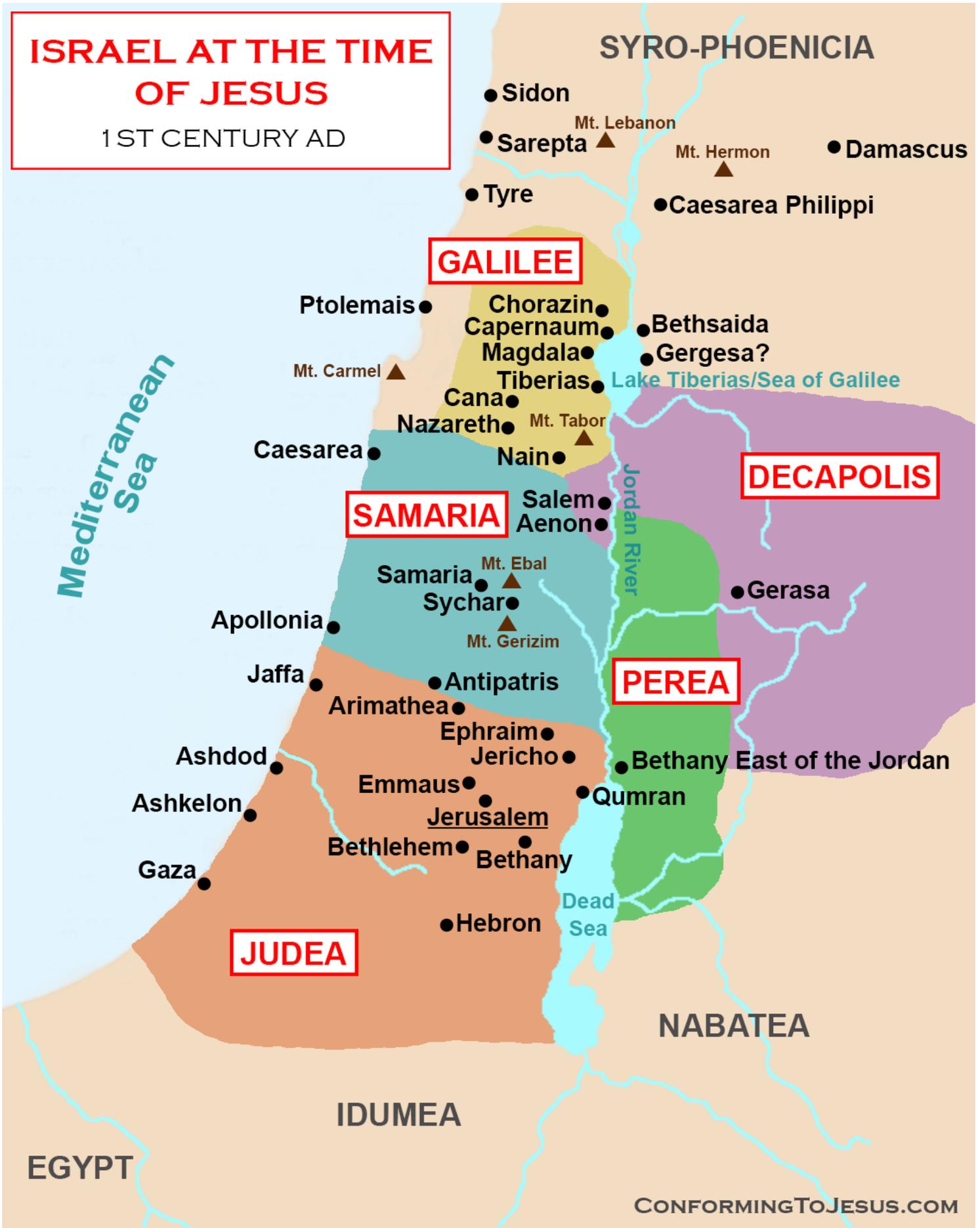
Spoken by the teacher to the class: 'The wise men understood that Jesus was the King of the Jews and God's king for people from all nations.'













Matthew 2:1-12 with instruction for visual cues

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem —————> Point to Bethlehem on the map
in Judea. —————> Circle your finger around the region of Judea
- King Herod ruled Judea. —————> Place 'Herod's crown' icon inside in the
middle of Judea
- Some wise men came to Jerusalem —————> Place 'wise men' icon in the East and then
from the East. —————> move them to Jerusalem
- They asked, 'Where is the baby —————> Place 'baby crown' icon above the wise men
who is the King of the Jews?'
- 'We saw his star in the sky. —————> Place 'star' icon on the map half way to Bethlehem
We have come to worship him.'
- Herod heard what the men from the —————> Turn the 'Herod crown' icon upside down
East were saying. He was worried.
- He asked the leaders 'Where —————> Place 'question mark' icon above Herod
will God's Messiah be born?'
- They replied, 'In Bethlehem, as —————> Place 'baby inside crown' icon on Bethlehem
the prophet said a long time ago.'
- Herod secretly said to the men, —————> Move 'Herod crown' to wise men
'Look everywhere for this child.
Tell me where he is so that
I can also worship him.'
- The wise men followed the star. —————> Move 'star' icon to Bethlehem above 'baby crown'
It stopped above the place where —————> icon. Move 'wise men' to 'baby crown' icon
the child was staying.
- They bowed down and —————> Bow 'wise men' icon over
worshipped him.
- They gave gifts to him. —————> Place 'gifts' icon near 'baby crown' icon
- God told them in a dream, —————> Place 'dream' bubble above wise men
'Do not go back to Herod.'
- So, the men took a different —————> Stand 'wise men' icon and move to East
road to their own country. —————> in an indirect way

Jesus was born in Bethlehem

in Judea.

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They asked, 'Where is the baby who is the King of the Jews?'

'We saw his star in the sky. We have come to worship him.'

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Herod secretly said to the men, 'Look everywhere for this child. Tell me where he is so that I can also worship him.'

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They bowed down and worshipped him.

They gave gifts to him.

God told them in a dream, 'Do not go back to Herod.'

So, the men took a different road to their own country.