

Hope When There Is All Sorts of Trouble - December 20

Parents: When the time came for Jesus to be born, Mary and Joseph were searching for a place to stay while a powerful king desired to harm him. Sounds like a hopeless situation! As we read In Matthew, we see God’s plan triumphed. Magi from the east worshipped baby Jesus and his location was kept safe. What can we learn from this? In the midst of our difficulties, we can trust God. There is always hope in Jesus, our King of Kings.

Read: [Matthew 2:1-12](#) After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: 6 “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.” 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Discuss: Who was the king when Jesus was born? *King Herod.*
Who came to Jerusalem and asked where the king of the Jews was born so they could worship him? *Magi, wisemen, of the east.*
Why do you think King Herod wanted to find out where Jesus was born? *Herod did not want people to worship or adore anyone but him. He wanted to kill Jesus.*
When the Magi followed the star and found Jesus, what did they do next? *These men bowed down, worshipped Jesus, and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*
How were the Magi warned not to go back to Herod? *They had a dream.*
What did they decide to do because of the dream? *The Magi went back to their country by another way, bypassing Herod. Wow! Even though Herod wanted to harm Jesus, God had another plan. Jesus, the King of Kings, was born and worshipped.*

Key Point: Jesus is King of Kings

Jesus is (Tap pointer finger in center of opposite palm)
King of Kings (Pretend to place a crown on your head, repeat)

Family Activity: The Magi, or wisemen, worshipped the true King. Let’s make one of the Magi, or wisemen. Use a toilet paper roll, glue stick, and the materials provided in the craft packet. Start by glueing the face at the top of the roll, add the colored robe, beard, and sideburns. Finish it off by glueing the crown on top. Place the wiseman somewhere to remind your family to be wise and put Jesus above all.

Prayer: Dear God, You are worthy of all our praise. You are the King of Kings! Forgive us when we don’t put You first. Help our words and actions glorify You. We thank and love You. Amen.

Next Steps: Memorize Matthew 2:11 - “On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him...”



“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him...” Matthew 2:11