

Children's Church at Home 10 January 2021

Three visitors: Matthew 2:1-12

Craft ingredients: card, pens, scissors, 'jewels', glitter, glitter glue (anything bright and sparkly!) pritt stick, cotton wool or other wool, sellotape. And cooking ingredients, see below.

First: well, I've got to ask: what was your favourite Christmas present? Here's the story of some visitors who brought some very special presents for baby Jesus.

Story: Matthew 2:1-12

[Matthew 2:1-12 ERV - Wise Men Come to Visit Jesus - Jesus - Bible Gateway](#)

Video: <https://youtu.be/Zk1LhngROCM>

Think: who were these people? Kings? Wise men? Astronomers? And how did they find their way to where Jesus was? Was it with a map? Satnav? Googlemaps? They brought presents, but would **you** be pleased with the presents they brought? Gold maybe, but what would you do with frankincense and myrrh? Well, gold is a very suitable present for a baby king, and frankincense was used in worship and so it was good for the baby son of God. But myrrh was used for the body of someone who had died. Strange present for a baby. Perhaps somehow they knew that Jesus was going to die, and not when he was old.

Mary and Joseph must have been amazed! Before Christmas, we heard about how the shepherds, ordinary shepherds, came because the angels had told them about the baby king. Now here were these wonderful, magnificent, rich and knowledgeable people, maybe riding on camels, bringing fabulous gifts. Just as Isaiah had said, hundreds of years before.

"At that time you will see your people,
and your faces will shine with happiness.

First, you will be afraid,
but then you will be excited.

All the riches from across the seas will be set before you.

The riches of the nations will come to you.

⁶ Herds of camels from Midian and Ephah
will cross your land.

Long lines of camels will come from Sheba.

They will bring gold and incense.

People will sing praises to the LORD.-Isaiah 60:5-6

Well, a marvelous story. And let's think about what part we could play in a story like this? We can bring our very best gifts to Jesus: a playstation? Ipad? Bicycle? No, not expensive presents, just ourselves. And we can be like the star, and show people the way to Jesus, by always trying to be good and kind and fair and honest.

Craft: You may have made the angel Gabriel, Mary and Joseph, and baby Jesus before Christmas. Now you need the three wise men.

Activity:

On January 6, lots of people in France have a flaky cake known as a *galette des rois* (kings' tart). Tradition has it that if you find a tiny figure in your slice, you are king or queen for the night, and you're given a golden crown. In Spain a similar cake is called un Roscón de Reyes, and decorated with bright colours to look like a crown. And in many countries, January 6 is when the children get their presents, just like Jesus, when he was a baby.

A simplified version of the traditional cake. I suggest you make it in a pie dish: some of my filling escaped! And I decorated the top by brushing it with a little melted jam and using that as glue to stick on some dried mango pieces and glace cherries, to look like jewels!

INGREDIENTS

- 500g ready-made butter puff pastry
- 100g ground almonds
- 75g sugar
- 50g soft butter
- 1 egg (keep back a little of the yolk)

METHOD

1. Divide the pastry in two parts; roll each out into a circle about 23cm across. Preheat the oven to 210C/190C fan/Gas 7.
2. Mix the almonds, sugar, butter and egg to a smooth paste.
3. Place the first circle in a baking tray and spread the paste evenly across. Insert a *fève* - a little figurine or a dried bean.
4. Dampen the edge of the first disc and lay the second over it. Press down with a fork. Glaze the top with the reserved egg yolk; decorate with a knife (a leaf pattern is traditional, but criss-crossing is easier).
5. Bake for 30 minutes until golden. Serve slightly warm (five minutes at 180C/160C fan/Gas 4 if reheating).

With thanks to The Telegraph.

Prayer: Father God, you sent a star to guide the Wise Men to Jesus. Could you make me like a shining star to lead people to Jesus too? Thank you for Christmas! Thank you for wonderful presents and delicious treats and for all my family and friends. but especially thank you for Jesus, because without him we wouldn't have Christmas at all! Amen.

The Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.