

The Christmas Star

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During the Christmas season, notice the mention of stars in your favorite Christmas hymns, in worship, and in daily life. Encourage family members to be on the lookout for stars.

For

Young Family

Season

Winter



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Needed

Dark blue construction paper, small star stickers (available at discount or office supply stores), Bible

Prepare in Advance

- Mark your Bible at Matthew 2:1-11.
- Find one piece of dark blue construction paper and one sheet of small star stickers for each family member.

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

O God, remind us of the importance of the star in the story of Christmas. Amen.

2. Give each family member one piece of dark blue construction paper and a sheet of star stickers.
3. Explain that you will listen to a Bible story about something that happened after Jesus was born. Whenever family members hear the word *star*, they should put one star sticker on their pieces of blue paper.
4. Ask one family member to read aloud Matthew 2:1-11 from your Bible or from the text at the end of this activity. Have family members add stickers to their blue papers as they listen. After the story, compare notes about how many times the word *star* was heard. (Most Bible versions use *star* four times.) Discuss why the star is so important in this story.
5. Sing “We Three Kings” and a few other familiar Christmas carols. If you need help recalling the words, type the title of the carol followed by the word *lyrics* in an Internet search engine. (For example, “We Three Kings lyrics.”) Add star stickers to your blue papers every time you sing the word *star*.
6. Continue the activity when you worship at church. During the Christmas season, worship often includes references to stars in hymns, prayers, and sermons. Add star stickers to your blue papers for the times you hear or read the word *star*.
7. Variation: Go outside on a clear night and look at the stars. Try to count the ones that seem the biggest and add a star sticker for each big star to your blue papers.

Matthew 2:1-11

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

