

Mission Together

Advent Activity: Delivering God's Word



This activity complements our Advent Hope (Week One) liturgy. In the introduction below, reference is also made to our Together in Jordan classroom poster. These can be ordered via our website.

In our Advent liturgy we heard about a group of people who made a long and difficult journey to find baby Jesus at the first Christmas.

Q. Can you remember who they were?

A. The wise men.

The wise men came from the East, so many believe that they came from what we call Iraq or Iran today (point out Iraq on the Together in Jordan poster).

It's likely that they travelled all the way across the Jordan desert, through Amman (point out Amman), stopping first at Jerusalem where the wise men met cruel King Herod (point out Jerusalem on the map).

Then after outsmarting King Herod, the wise men travelled on to Bethlehem (point out Bethlehem).

This was a distance of over 500 miles! A very difficult and long journey, especially on a camel. And the wise men even carried gifts.

Q. Why do you think the wise men went to all that effort?

A. They were hoping to find Jesus, who they believed was a very special king. And, as a sign of their respect for Jesus, they delivered gifts that would help people understand how special Jesus is.

Q. Can anyone tell us what these gifts were?

A. Frankincense – This is an incense (like perfume), that used to be burned in the Temple during special times of prayer. Delivering Frankincense helped people understand that Jesus is God and worthy of praise.

A. Myrrh – This was an expensive perfume that in Jesus' day families would use to cover the bodies of loved ones who had died. Anointing a body with myrrh was a way of showing their love and care.

A. Gold – Gold is a very expensive metal often used as currency or in jewellery. It helped people to see that Jesus is worthy of such an expensive gift – the King of all kings.

By bringing these gifts the wise men helped people understand that God loves us so much that He wanted to live with us. In this way he could help us see how special we are and show us how to care for, forgive, and love each other. We can help people know that God loves us too. Unlike the wise men we don't need to deliver expensive gifts. Presents are nice, but there are even better ways to share God's love with others.

Q. How many ways to share God's love can you think of?

A. By being kind, sharing what we have, spending time with people, praying for others, forgiving etc.

Another way of sharing the message of God's love at this time of year is with a Christmas card. Today let's



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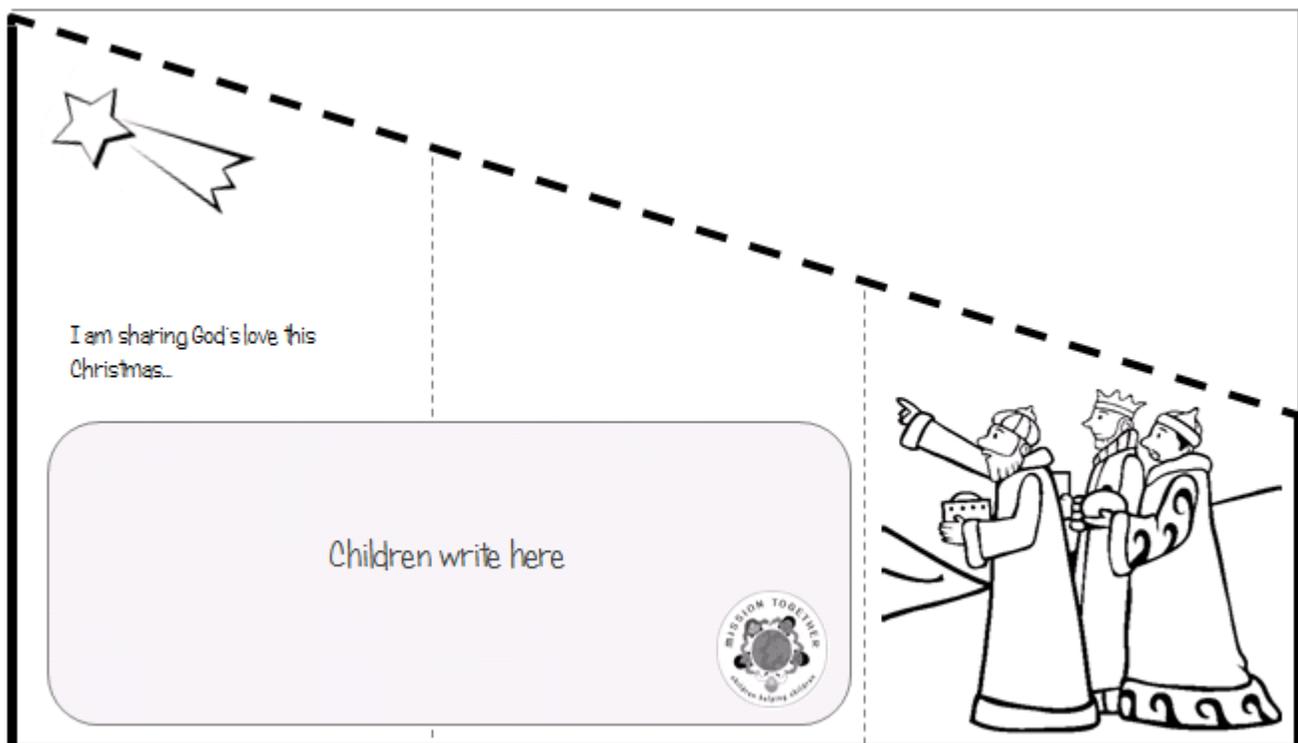
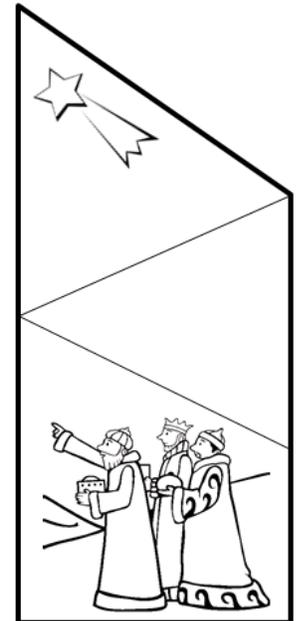
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1. Makes copies of Appendix 1. One for each child. We advise you copy onto thin A4 card.
2. Cut around the thick dash line. This should leave children with a trapezoid shape.
3. The shape should be folded along the dotted line, from right to left. This should leave children with a narrow folded card (see image to the right).
4. Children can colour the front of their card and, if you have enough to hand, add glitter!
5. Inside the folds will be the text 'I am sharing God's love this Christmas.'
6. Ask children to write either:
 - a) ways in which they will deliver God's love to others this Christmas e.g. by being kind, helping at home. When they have finished, ask children to write their names as a pledge that they will fulfil their promise to deliver God's love in these ways. Then stand the children's cards near your school / parish crib.
 - b) a Christmas message for someone special. Ask children to write down ways they will share God's love with that special person e.g. by listening to them, by helping them with jobs, by praying for them. Children are encouraged to deliver their Christmas card to their special someone by hand.

For this activity children will need:

- One copy each of Appendix 1.
- Coloured pens / pencils
- Scissors
- Glitter and glue (optional)





I am sharing God's love this
Christmas...

