



the magi

Wise men from the East knew something significant had occurred because of a special star they saw. They made a long journey bringing precious, valuable gifts to this special baby. Wanting to harm Jesus, King Herod tried to use the wise men to lead him to the baby, but the wise men left no trail. Instead, Joseph and Mary took Jesus to safety in Egypt.

the magi arrive



Welcome all the Children/Young people and discuss their week. What did they get up to at school? What do they remember from last week's lesson? What things have they been praying and asking God for? **Start with Prayer**



Matthew 2:1-23

It's time to read the bible together. Maybe someone would like to volunteer to read it, or perhaps we could read it together?



Click here to [Watch](#) together AND USE THE STORY IN THIS PACK TO READ.



- **Where did the wise men who brought gifts to Jesus come from?** (The East)
- **What is another name for wise men from the East?** (Magi)
- **Who was the King who wanted to kill young Jesus?** (Herod)
- **Why did King Herod want to kill Jesus?** (He wanted to be the only King over the Jews)
- **What led the Magi to Jesus?** (A star)
- **Name the three gifts the Magi gave Jesus:** (gold, incense (or frankincense), and myrrh)
- **Why did the wise men travel to see Jesus?** (To worship him)
- **What did King Herod do to try to kill Jesus?** (He had all the Hebrew boys under age two killed)
- **How did God protect baby Jesus from King Herod?** (He gave Joseph a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus and live in Egypt until it was safe to return to Israel)
- **What did the magi learn from their journey to see Jesus?**



1. Source some wooden stars like the ones opposite
2. The children can colour them in and hang them on their strings and give them as a gift.
3. They could decorate them with glitter or other materials.
4. If the wooden templates are not handy to you, then you can use card cut outs to design them too!



MEMORY

God did this so that all people will respect the Son the same way they respect the Father.

VERSE

John 5:23

memory verse take home cut

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John 5:23

ways to introduce

Before class, gather some items that could be given to a baby at birth (nappies, rattle, baby powder, soap, etc....)

Let the children talk about gifts they would give to a baby.

“In today’s story, we will talk about some gifts that Jesus received. One of the people who gave Jesus gifts was a very wise man.

Today we are going to let him tell us about what happened.” (Cover your head with a sheet or blanket and wear some “expensive” jewellery or scarves.

Lower your voice and tell the story as if you are one of the wise men.

Another option is to ask a man of the congregation to dress up and tell the story in first person.)

If you have a visual aid, you might say you have some lovely photos of everything that happened.

Show the visual aid as you tell the story.

THE STORY

Far to the east of Bethlehem, some men were referred to as “magi”. The magi were considered to be very wise. Even though they were wise in many ways, the magi did not worship God.

The magi did, however, study the world and the stars. They had seen the stars many times, but there was something very different about one star they began to see in the sky. There was something so special about this star that the magi knew they must go and see what it was about.

After studying the star, the magi began to follow it. This star was so special that they realised it led them to a king. The king of the Jews. This was exciting! They wanted to worship this new king.

The star was over the town of Bethlehem, but the magi decided to stop in the city of Jerusalem on the way. Herod was the King of the Jews and lived in a Jerusalem palace. The magi thought that since he was a king, surely Herod would know about the new king.

“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?” the wise men asked Herod, “We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” They wanted to give him gifts and praise him like a king deserved.

King Herod seemed puzzled. He called together the chief priests and teachers of the law and asked for their advice. Herod was the king. Had the priests and teachers of the law ever heard about another king?

These advisers knew what the prophets had written about in the Old Testament. They knew that God was sending a Messiah to save his people. The prophets had said that the Messiah, the real King of the Jews, would be born in Bethlehem.

The “real King of the Jews?” This meant that he would be more important when the Messiah came than King Herod.

King Herod did not want anyone to be more important than him! He was king, and he liked himself a lot. He knew he had to find out where this new king was. He had to get rid of him.

THE STORY pt 2

So Herod came back to the Magi and tried to trick them. He told them to go and find the newborn king so he could go and worship him and give him honour, too.

But this was a trick. King Herod didn't really want to worship the new king – he wanted to kill him! He wanted to follow the magi to know where the new king was.

The star began to shine again, so the wise men followed it again. Soon, they found the house in Bethlehem where Joseph, Mary and their little boy, Jesus, stayed.

Mary and Joseph told the wise men all about how Jesus had been born in a stable. They told them about the angels singing to the shepherds when they announced his birth.

The wise men knew immediately that this little boy was truly the new king of the Jews. They bowed in front of him and gave him expensive gifts from their country in the east. The gifts were gold, incense and myrrh. These were the kinds of expensive gifts that people would give to a king. The Magi gave Jesus this special honour.

The magi had a dream and knew that King Herod would try to kill Jesus. The magi did not want to tell King Herod where to find Jesus. They went back home a different way so that King Herod could not follow them.

The magi weren't the only ones to have a dream. In a dream, an angel appeared to Joseph and said, "Joseph, get up, take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you. If you don't go, then Herod will search and find your son. Then he will kill him."

So Joseph got up at that very moment. In the middle of the night, he took his family on a long trip to Egypt. They were safe.

It was a good thing that Joseph did act quickly. When the other Magi did not return to King Herod, he got very angry. King Herod ordered his soldiers to kill every single little Jewish boy under the age of two. He did not know that Jesus was already gone, so he thought he could kill him this way. What a very sad day.

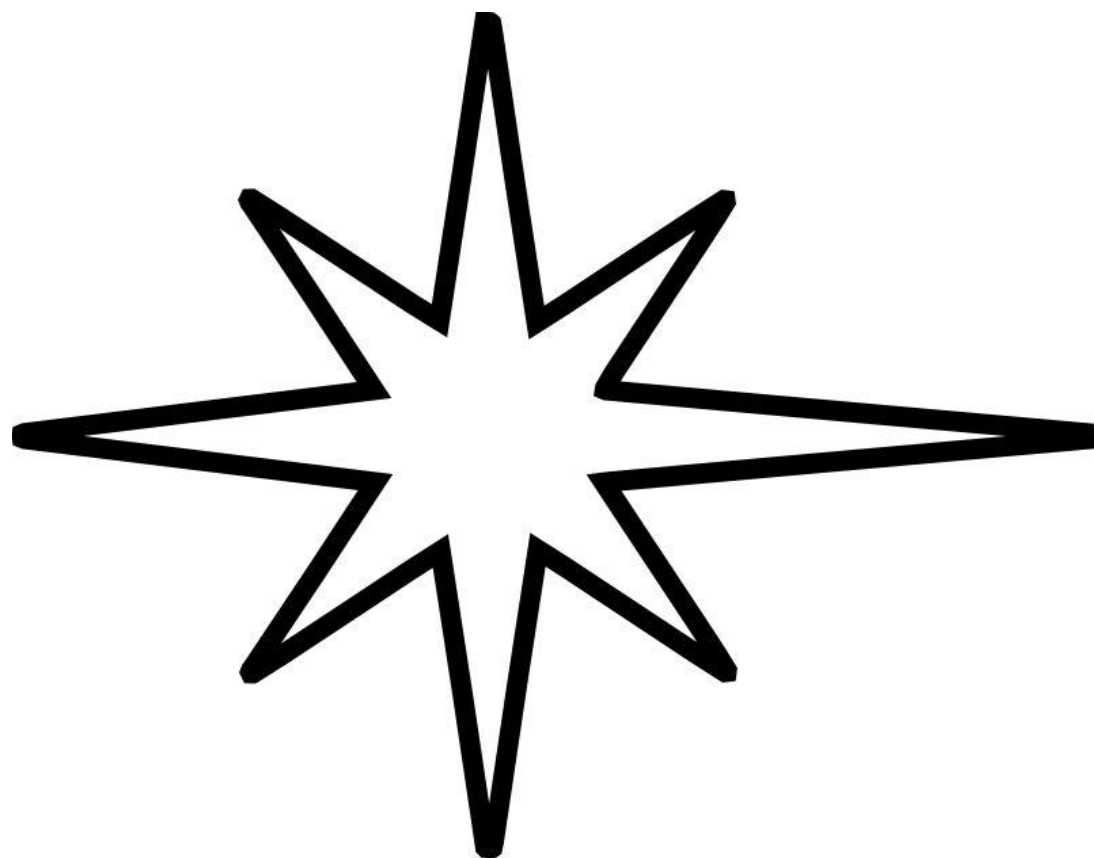
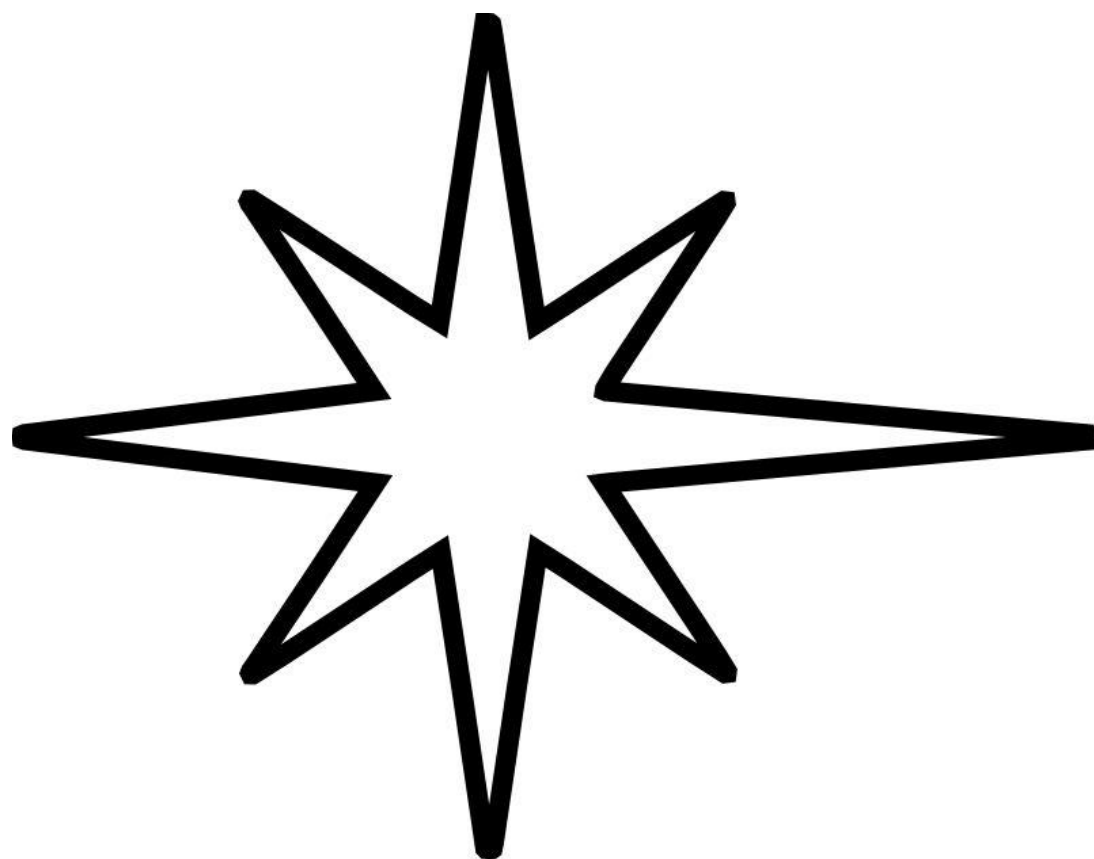
THE STORY pt 3

But God kept Jesus safe! Jesus was God's special gift to the world. The wise men knew that Jesus was special and wanted to give him special honour. Are you like the wise men?

You can give Jesus special honour by obeying him and telling him how much you love him. Have you given Jesus honour today?

A large, light blue watermark consisting of the letters 'WVD' in a bold, stylized font, centered on the page. The letters are enclosed within a thin, light blue circular border.

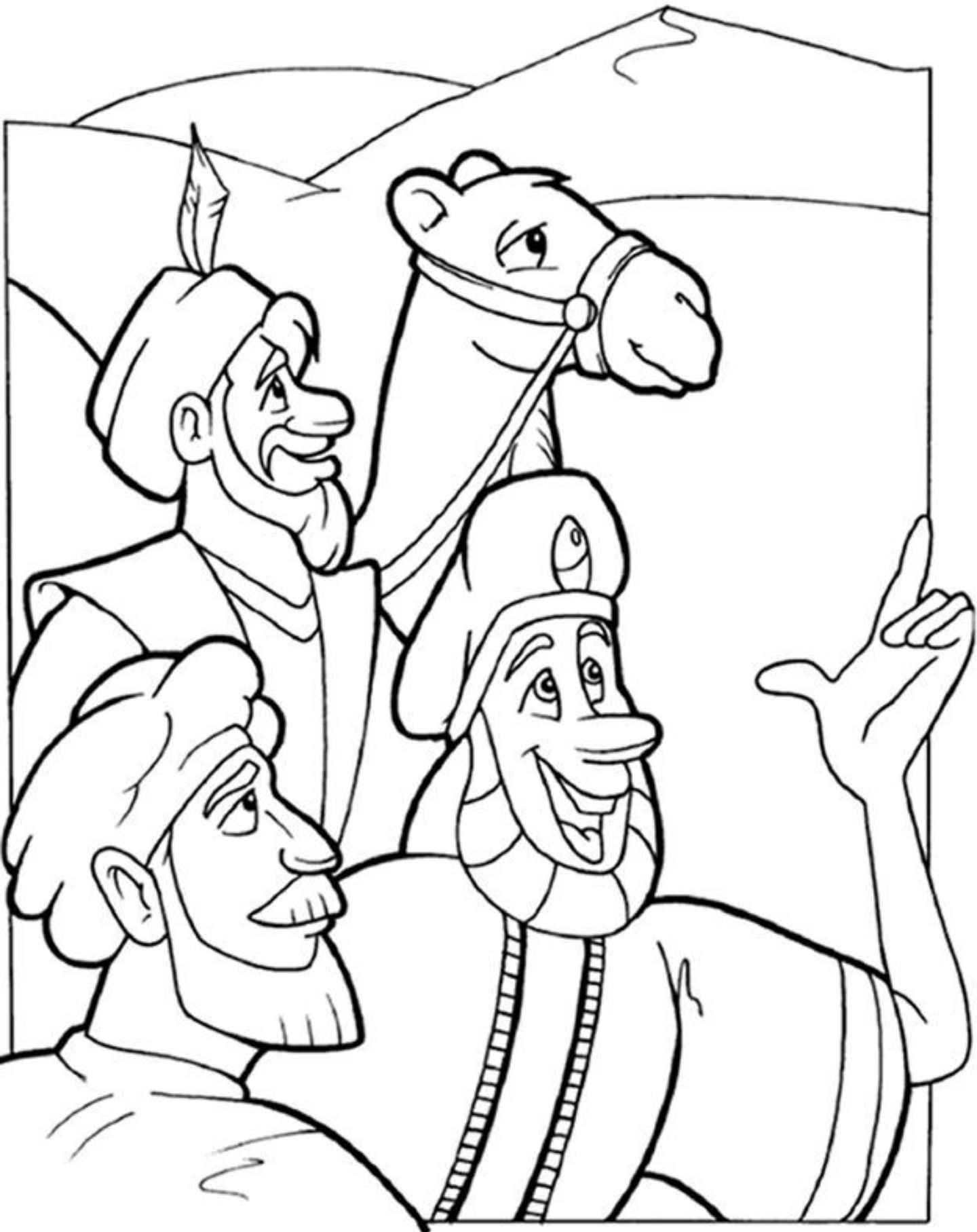
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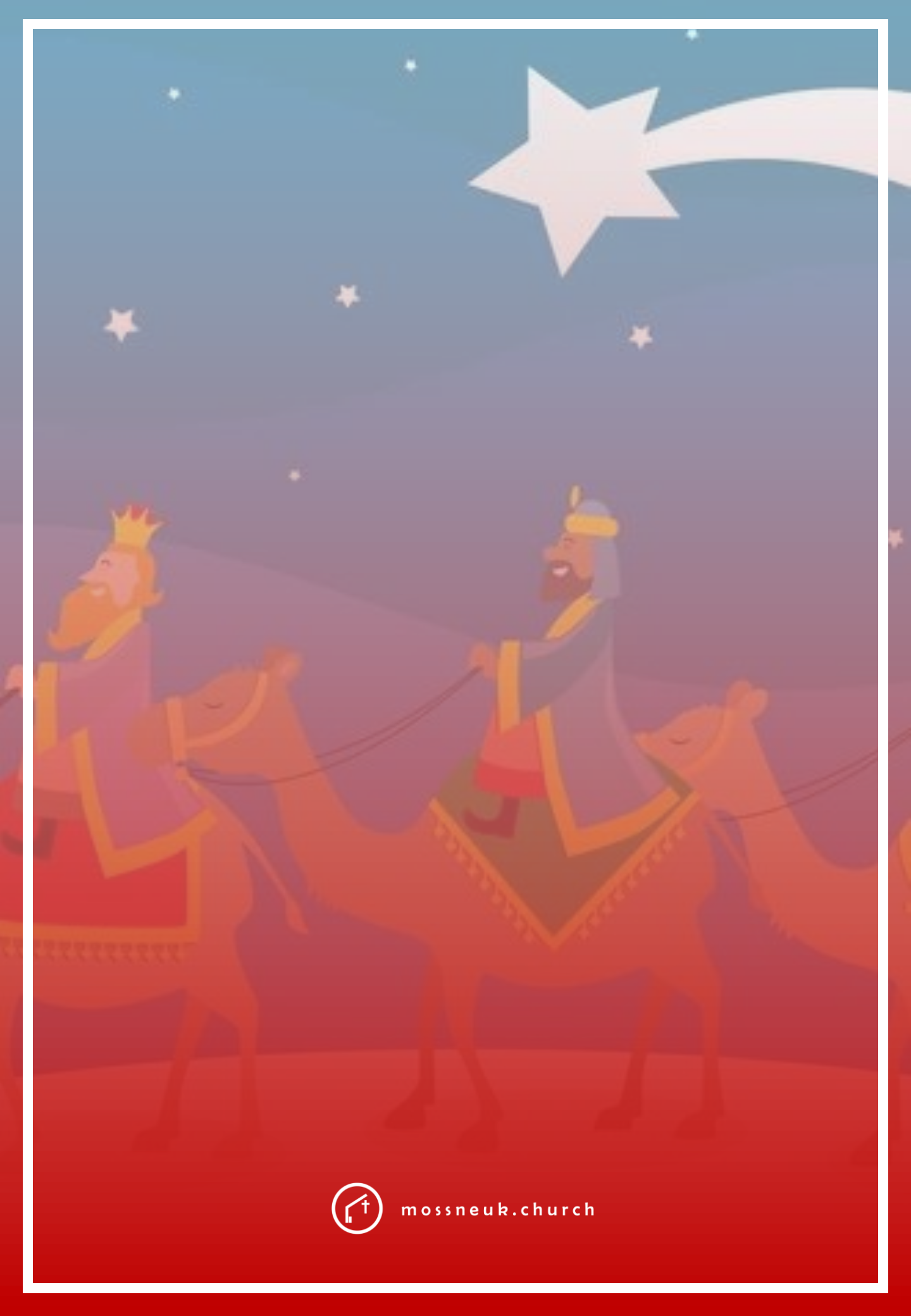


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