

Christmas Season Devotionals

Week Two – Day 7

We Three Kings

"We Three Kings", also known as "We Three Kings of Orient Are" or "The Quest of the Magi", is a Christmas hymn that was penned by John Henry Hopkins Jr. in 1857. "Hopkins wrote "We Three Kings" for a Christmas pageant held at the General Theological Seminary, in New York City, where he taught music. Hopkins wrote both the lyrics and music to "We Three Kings" which was very uncommon for hymn writers of the day." (Diana Leigh Matthews at dianaleighmatthews.com)

Craft Ideas – <https://www.redtedart.com/three-kings-day-crafts/?cn-reloaded=1>

Video by Kidzone: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpb3Wp9PX6k>

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and
mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still
proceeding, guide us to thy
perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, all men
raising, worship Him, God most
high. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
[Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Heaven sings Alleluia, Alleluia, the
earth replies. [Refrain]

Questions/statements for individuals or families to respond to:

- Most likely, the wise men did not believe in Jesus. Hopefully later they did. How does that make you feel knowing God accepts everyone who comes to Him?
- Read Matthew 2:1-2. Jesus was already born, probably around 2 yrs. old. How would you feel if strangers came to your door with their strange, but very expensive gifts to give to you?
- The gifts: (1) Gold was the treasure of kings, (2) Frankincense was used in worship of God, and (3) Myrrh was the most expensive gift, a spice used for funerals and burial services (John 19:39). Now, think or talk about how these gifts apply to Jesus.

Digging Deeper

1. "These magi were pagan specialists in the supernatural, experts in astrology, magic, and divination, blatant violators of Old Testament law — and they came to worship Jesus," (*desiringgod.org*). By contrast, can you recall being more prone to write off people like this?
2. These would be similar people to whom Nebuchadnezzar would have first called on to interpret his dreams before Daniel (Daniel 2:2). Moses (Deuteronomy 18:9-14), Isaiah (47:11-15), Peter (Acts 8) and Paul (Acts 13:6-12) all spoke out against such engagement in these magical arts. What conclusion(s) to you draw from these wise men's prominence in the Gospel narratives? (Read Luke 2:1-19)
3. What do you desire to bring to Jesus this Christmas season to honor Him?