



The Gift of Love

Week commencing
4 January 2021

This assembly explores the Epiphany through children's experience of giving gifts. **Children will discover the meaning behind the gifts given by the wise men and reflect on what they can give to Jesus. Finally, they will learn that Jesus Himself is the most perfect gift of love from God to us!**

NB. this assembly uses the Gospel from Epiphany (6/1/2021). You might like to hold your assembly on Wednesday 6th January to coincide with Epiphany, but it is not essential!

Key Scripture

Matthew 2: 1 - 12

Learning Objective

"We have seen His star in the east and have come with gifts to adore the Lord."

Children will understand that:

- Like the wise men, they too can give Jesus a gift – their love.
- Jesus is Himself a gift of love to us.

Success Criteria

Children will:

- Engage with the discussions and questions
- Take part in a time of reflection

Resource Materials

- PowerPoint Presentation
- **Appendix 1** – Gospel Reading
- **Appendix 2** – Reflection (KS2 only)

Preparation Notes

- KS2 teachers should read over the additional material on Slides 6 and 7. EYFS/KS1 teachers can of course use this content if they wish.
- Read the notes on Slide 13 - 14. Decide if you will read **Appendix 2** or use the voiceover on the PowerPoint and prepare accordingly.

Hymn Suggestion

Traditional: 'We Three Kings' by John Henry Hopkins
Contemporary: ['What Child Is This?'](#) by Chris Tomlin

One-page Summary

1. Three Clues

(3 mins)

Slides 1-2 Introduce the theme of 'Epiphany'.

Slides 3-6 Prepare to read the Gospel by discussing elements or 'clues' from the story of the Epiphany.

KS2 only – Discuss the meaning of the word 'Epiphany' as 'to reveal' – it is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world.

Slide 7 **KS2 only** – Discuss how the wise men might have felt when choosing gifts for the king they were following the star to find!

2. Three Gifts

(3 mins)

Slide 8 Read or invite a child to read the Gospel from **Appendix 1**.

Slides 9-12 Read information and ask differentiated questions to explore the significance of the three gifts the wise men gave.

3. The Gift of Love

(4 mins)

Slides 13-14 Facilitate a time of reflection for children to understand the gift of love that they can give to Jesus and that Jesus is to them.

- **Option 1** - Play the voiceover (**Slide 13**)
- **Option 2** – With two children, read **Appendix 2 (Slide 14)**

Slide 15 Finish by saying together the Glory Be.

Total Time

10 mins

Prayer of Preparation

Dear Lord,

Thank you for this opportunity to nurture the faith of the children in my care. By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead and guide me as I prepare this assembly and bless each and every child with an open heart and mind to hear your Word.

In your name, Jesus, Amen.

Teacher Script

1. Three Clues

(3 mins)

By way of three picture clues, prepare to tell the story of Epiphany.



Slides 1-2

Welcome children and say that this year, some children didn't receive their Christmas presents on Christmas Day (gasp!) but had/have to wait until this Wednesday!

Click to reveal and ask:

Does anyone know what is special about this Wednesday?

Answer: It is January 6th, the Feast of Epiphany.

Reassure children that if they don't know what 'Epiphany' is, they will find out soon, because you have some clues for them...

Slides 3-6

Prepare to tell the story of Epiphany by asking these or your own questions to create a sense of anticipation:

Clue #1 – Presents

- What makes a gift special?
- What is the most memorable/surprising present you have ever received?
- Have you ever received a gift that 'you will grow into'?

Clue #2 – Baby

- What gifts might you gift to a baby?
- What does a baby need?

Clue #3 – Star

- How can stars help us? (Navigation, give us light)
- Has anyone ever seen a shooting star?
- Does anyone know the names of any stars?

Use the three clues to ask/tell pupils that:

Epiphany celebrates when, after following the star for a long time, the three wise men arrived to give their gifts to Jesus.



KS2 only – Explain that ‘Epiphany’ comes from the Greek word meaning ‘to reveal’, as it is when the baby Jesus was ‘revealed’ to the world. This is why you might hear people say they’ve had an epiphany, when they’ve just realised something.

Slide 7

KS2 only

Before reading the Gospel, invite children to reflect on how they feel when giving a gift.

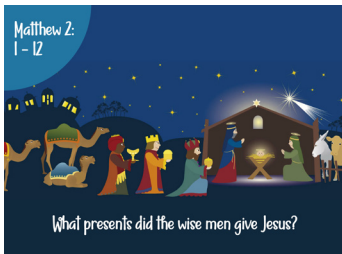
- Do they feel nervous, wondering if the person will like it?
- Do they feel excited about seeing the other person’s reaction?

You might like children to **imagine how the wise men felt when choosing gifts for the baby king** they were following the star to find!



2. Three Gifts
(3 mins)

Read the Gospel and discuss the three gifts the wise men gave to Jesus.



Slide 8

Read, or invite a child to read **Appendix 1 – Gospel Reading**.

After the Gospel reading:

Click to reveal and ask:

What presents did the wise men give Jesus?

Answer: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

Express surprise, e.g. “These were supposed to be **wise men!** Didn’t they know that a baby can’t use gold, frankincense or myrrh?! What were they thinking?”

Slides 9-12

Read information about each of the three gifts given by the wise men and ask questions to help children understand more about Epiphany.

Lower - Gold

- Gold is very valuable
- It stays shiny and beautiful
- It might be worn by a...?





3. What Can I Give Jesus? (4 mins)

Provide an opportunity to reflect and pray.



Question:

Why was Jesus given gold?

Answer:

- Because Jesus is a king.

Middle – Myrrh

- Myrrh is an ointment
- It is used on the sick or people who are dying

Question:

Why was Jesus given myrrh?

Answer:

- Because Jesus' death was going to be very important.

Upper – Frankincense

- Frankincense is a kind of incense
- It makes sweet smelling smoke when it's burnt
- It is used by priests
- It is used at Mass when we make our offering to God

Question:

Why was Jesus given frankincense?

Answer:

- Because Jesus' life would be a sacrifice/an offering.

Make the **key point** that the wise men were thinking of Jesus' future life – a bit like when you receive gifts that **'you will grow into'**.

Slide 13

Lead children in reflection using one of the following options:

Option 1 – Play the reflection

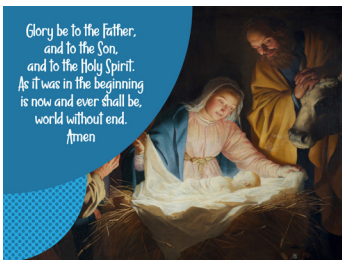
Click once and the voiceover and music will play.



Slide 14

Option 2 – With the help of 2 children, read **Appendix 2 - Reflection**

Click once and background music will play.



Slide 15

Read the **Glory Be** from the screen.

Then conclude the assembly with the Sign of the Cross.