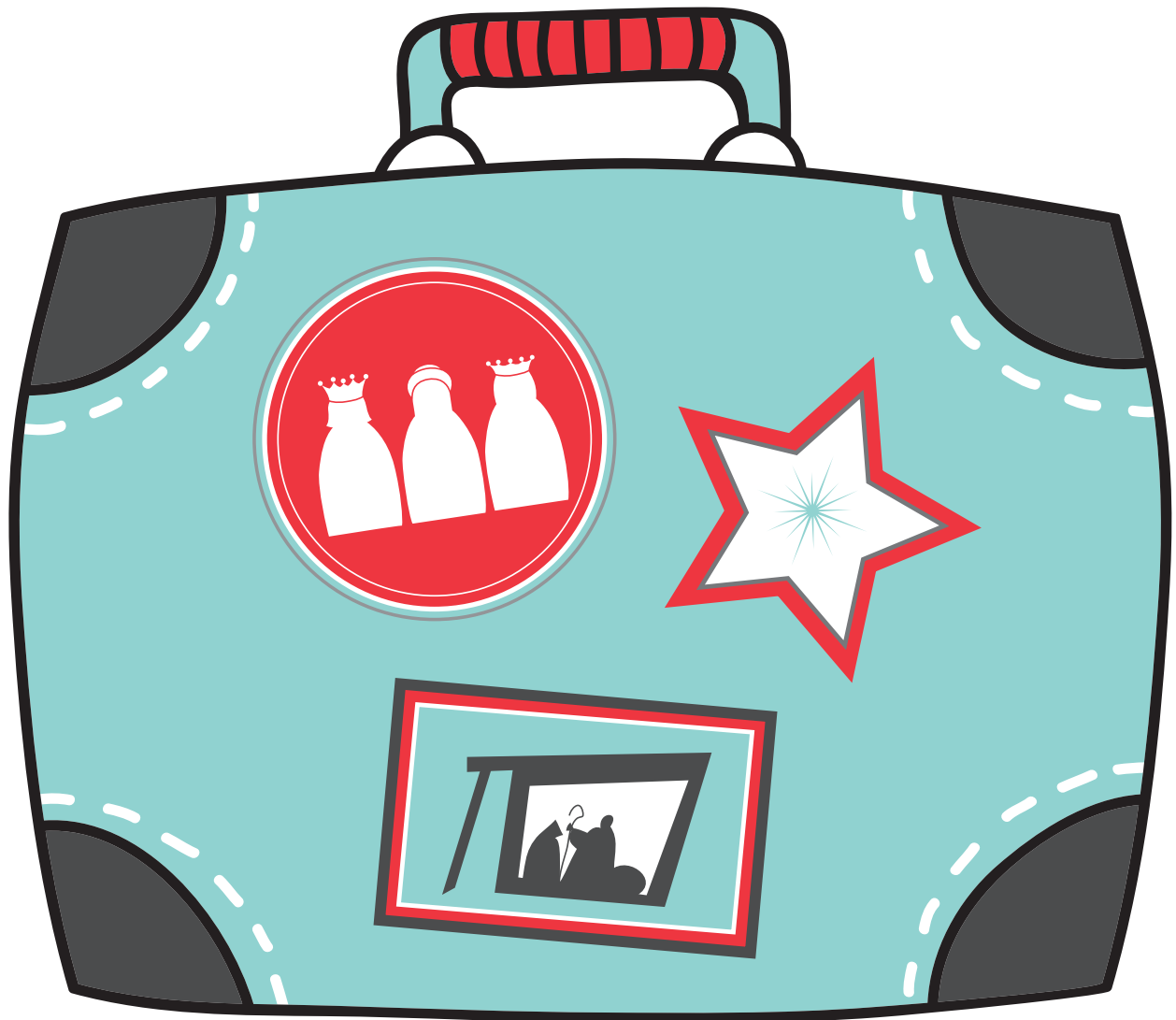
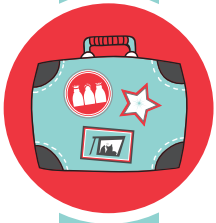


JOURNEY TO JESUS

A Travel Guide



Crossing Kids
Family Christmas Devotional 2013



Crossing Kids Families,

Like the Wise Men, our journey to Jesus is understanding who He is and responding to him in worship. When you think of the word “worship,” what thoughts and images fill your mind? If you’re like most, this word is intimately tied to music and singing. This, of course, is one of the ways we practically see worship in action on a regular basis, but it’s not the only way. A biblical definition of worship involves much more than a weekly ritual of liturgy and lyrics. **The Bible teaches us that worship starts with an understanding of who God is and ends with a right heart response in all areas of life.** When we see who God really is, it changes how we work, play, relate to others, relate to money and possessions, and so much more.

As you prepare for Christmas, we’d like to encourage your family to take a closer look at the different ways people in the Gospel accounts respond to the “good news of great joy that will be for all people.” Each week, this Advent devotional will include a reading where someone encounters the Christ child. Through this encounter, they learn more about our great God and His character. This leads to a variety of worshipful responses.

Each of the five devotionals will begin with a brief introduction, followed by scripture reading, discussion prompts, and an opportunity to worship God together as a family. We’ve included travel stickers that you can use to document what you’ve learned and place them on the outside of the suitcase we’ve provided before closing in prayer each night. Consider trying this before, during, or after a meal or perhaps right before bed on a designated night.

Please know that our staff team is praying for you and your family as you prepare to celebrate our Savior’s birth.

Merry Christmas!
Crossing Kids Staff

(This devotional was written by Emily Pilkington and Alice Juckes.)



Introduction: Week 1 December 5-8

Introduction

When you think of the word “worship”, what comes to mind? Who are we to worship? Why do we worship? *(Take responses.)*

Our journey to Jesus starts by understanding who Jesus is and responding to him in worship. When many people think of the word “worship,” they often think about going to a church service or singing a song. All of these things are part of what that word means, but it actually means so much more. Tonight, we're going to read several different Bible passages that help us understand what worship is.

Bible Discussion

Tip: Feel free to use a resource like www.biblegateway.com to look up verses.

What is Worship? Read the passage below to answer this question.

John 4:23-24 *(True worship happens when people worship God in Spirit and in Truth. That means that people have a right understanding of who God is and their hearts respond. One way to think of it is **Worship = Knowing Who God Is + A Right Heart Response**)*

How are we to worship? Read the passages below to answer this question.

Isaiah 29:13 *(Worship is not just about what we do or look like on the outside. It's about what is going on inside our hearts.)*

Romans 12:1-3 *(Our very lives are to be an act of worship.)*

1 Corinthians 10:31 *(All of life is to be an act of worship.)*

Making it Stick

Can you fill in the blanks? Worship = Knowing Who _____ is + a Right _____ Response.

For the next four weeks, we're going to take a closer look at the Christmas Story and the different ways people worshiped by knowing who God is and responding in a variety of ways.

Sticker Time

Open your “Journey to Jesus” suitcase and find the sticker labeled “Week 1.” Place it somewhere on your suitcase as a way to remember what true worship is.

Pray together as a family.



Mary: Week 2 December 8-14

Introduction

Last week, we learned that our journey to Jesus is knowing who He is and responding to Him in worship.

What is worship? *(Take responses.)*

Worship = Knowing Who God is + A Right Heart Response

Each week, we are going to take a closer look at the Christmas Story and how several people worshiped Him. Tonight, let's take a closer look at Mary.

Bible Discussion

Read Luke 1:26-37.

What did the angel tell Mary? *(God was with her. Don't be afraid because she found favor with God. She was going to have a baby that she should call Jesus. He will be great and the Son of God. His Kingdom will never end.)*

Read Luke 1:38; 46-55.

What did Mary know about God? *(He is merciful; He is holy; He has done great things; He has brought down the proud and filled the hungry with good things; He has helped Israel and keeps His promises.)*

How did Mary respond? *(She was obedient and said, "May your word to me be fulfilled." She worshiped by singing about God and the great things He had done.)*

Making it Stick

When the angel came and told the good news of Jesus' birth to Mary, she worshiped Him in song.

Sticker Time

Open your "Journey to Jesus" suitcase and find the sticker labeled "Week 2." Place it somewhere on your suitcase as a way to remember that we can worship God through song.

Pray together as a family.

Optional Family Activity

Search "My Soul Magnifies the Lord" by Chris Tomlin on iTunes or Youtube and worship God together as a family. You can also check out more song recommendations on leavingalegacyblog.com.



Shepherds: Week 3 December 15-21

Introduction

For the last two weeks, we've taken a closer look at what worship is and how different people have worshiped God in the Christmas story.

What is worship? *(Take responses.)*

Worship = Knowing Who God is + A Right Heart Response

How did Mary worship? *(singing)*

Tonight, let's take a closer look at the shepherds.

Bible Discussion

Read Luke 2:1-20.

What were the shepherds doing when the angel came to tell them the good news? *(They were working/taking care of their sheep.)*

What did the angel tell them? *("Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.")*

What did the shepherds do after they heard this good news? *(They went to Bethlehem to see what the Lord told them about. Then they went and shared the good news with other people. They glorified God and praised Him for all the things they had seen and heard.)*

In today's story, the shepherds learned many important things about God. He keeps His promises. He was born as a baby in Bethlehem and would be the Savior for the entire world. When they knew who God was they immediately traveled to worship Him.

How did the shepherds worship in today's story? *(They told other people the Good News. They glorified and praised God for all they saw and heard.)*

Making it Stick

When the Shepherds knew who God was and what He had done for them, they worshiped Him in a really important way—they told other people. They didn't just keep the good news to themselves; they wanted others to know about it as well. One key way that we can worship God is by telling others about Him.

Sticker Time

Open your "Journey to Jesus" suitcase and find the sticker labeled "Week 3." Place it somewhere on your suitcase as a way to remember that we can worship God by telling others about Him.

Pray together as a family.

Optional Family Activity

Share the Good News with someone you know. Bake cookies for a neighbor and create a card that shares the true Gift we received at Christmas. Ask God for opportunities to share who He is and what He's done with others who don't yet know Him.



The Wise Men: Week 4 December 22-28

Introduction

For the last few weeks, we've taken a closer look at what worship is and how different people have worshiped God in the Christmas story.

What is worship? (*Worship = Knowing Who God is + A Right Heart Response*)

Do you remember how Mary worshipped? (*Singing*)

The Shepherds? (*Telling*)

Today we're going to see how the wise men worshipped Jesus.

Bible Discussion

Do you remember when we took a "Journey to Jesus" at the Family Christmas Celebration? We heard that some Wise Men wanted to meet a special baby. They traveled a long way, following a star, to meet this baby. Listen to what they did, when they found him...

Read Matthew 2:10-11.

What did the Wise Men do when they found baby Jesus?
(*They bowed down and worshipped him. They gave him their gifts: gold, incense and myrrh.*)

The Wise Men saw that Jesus was a special baby. They worshipped him by giving him gifts just right for a King.

Making it Stick

The Wise Men saw that Jesus was King. They gave him gifts, but they also gave their time and lives in worship to Jesus. When we see Jesus as King, we worship him by giving.

How can we use our money, time and lives to give to others?

Sticker Time

Open your "Journey to Jesus" suitcase and find the sticker labeled "Week 4." Place it somewhere on your suitcase as a way to remember that we can worship God by giving/serving others.

Pray together as a family.

Optional Family Activity

Remember to pass out your Homeless On-the-Go bag to someone this Christmas season. Check out more family service ideas on leavingalegacyblog.com.



Simeon and Anna: Week 5 December 29-Jan 4

Introduction

Our journey to Jesus begins by knowing who He is and responding to Him in worship. For the last few weeks, we've taken a closer look at what worship is and how different people have worshiped God in the Christmas story.

What is worship? (*Worship = Knowing Who God is + A Right Heart Response*)

Do you remember how Mary worshipped? (*Singing*)

The Shepherds? (*Telling*)

The Wise Men? (*Giving*)

In today's true story from the Bible, we meet two people who had waited a long time to meet Jesus. They were very excited to finally meet him!

Can you think of a time when you waited for something exciting to happen?

Bible Discussion

Before fleeing to Egypt, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem. The Law of Moses required them to offer a sacrifice of thanks for their firstborn son, and dedicate him to the Lord.



Meet Simeon – an old old man who loved God. The Holy Spirit had told Simeon that he would not die before meeting the Messiah (*the rescuer God's people had been waiting for*).

Read Luke 2:25-33.

What did Simeon do when he took Jesus in his arms?

(*He praised and thanked God for Jesus!*)



Meet Anna – an old old woman who loved God.

Read Luke 2:36-38.

What did Anna do when she saw Jesus?

(*Gave thanks to God for Jesus. Went and told everyone about Him!*)

Making it Stick

What amazes you about Jesus? What things can you praise and thank God for? Praise and thank God for Jesus, by praying together as a family. Get excited to tell someone who doesn't know about Jesus how great he is!

Sticker Time

Open your "Journey to Jesus" suitcase and find the sticker labeled "Week 5." Place it somewhere on your suitcase as a way to remember that we can worship God by praising and thanking Him.

Optional Family Activity: Popcorn Prayer

Take turns as a family praising God through short prayers of praise for as long or as short as you like. Family members can pop up one at a time and praise God through a simple phrase like "I praise you for sending Jesus" or "I praise you for keeping your promises."