

Year B - The Epiphany of the Lord

Matthew 2:1-12

We have come from the east to worship the king.



When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod brought together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?" They told him, "He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote, 'Bethlehem in the land of Judea you are very important among the towns of Judea. From your town will come a leader, who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.'" Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. He told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too." The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star. When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him. Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.



Year B - The Epiphany of the Lord

Matthew 2:1-12

Be people of great faith



Introduction

- In today's Gospel, we hear the story of the wise men as they travel a long distance to see and worship the baby Jesus.
- This story opens our eyes to what it means to have great faith even if there are obstacles in our way.

Message

- Just like lots of stories in the bible, the meaning behind the words is full of richness and metaphor of great faith.
- On this the feast of the Epiphany, the gospel gives us some symbols that remind us that Jesus is so special, even as a little baby others knew he was destined for great things.
- Our first symbol is the star. In the story, the star guided the wise men to baby Jesus. One of the names given to Jesus is light of the world.
- Can you think of a time that Jesus is the light of the world?
- Another symbol is that of travelling. The wise men travelled a fair distance to see and worship Jesus. They didn't know exactly how to get there, just that they had to follow the brightness of the star.
- What an amazing demonstration of great faith. When is a time when you showed great faith?
- The story doesn't specifically tell us there are three wise men, there might have been more, there might have been less. The number three comes from the gifts that are presented to baby Jesus. The number three is very important in the bible, especially when we talk about the gift of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- What gifts would you bring to Jesus?

