

FAMILY TABLE FOR THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

MAKE LUMINARIAS

Candles and lights remind us that Jesus is like a light to the world. Luminarias are lights set inside paper bags. Luminarias are fun to make and look great in snow in Canada. If you live in southern British Columbia, they will work in rain, too.

You will need:

- ◆ brown paper lunch pages with a flat bottom
- ◆ construction paper
- ◆ tea light or votive candles
- ◆ sand

Cut stars from the construction paper and glue to the top half of the brown paper bags. Fill each bag with 2 to 3 inches of sand and sink the candle into the sand. Place the bags beside your driveway or sidewalk. An adult should light the candles. To avoid burning themselves, they can light a piece of uncooked spaghetti and use it to light the candles.



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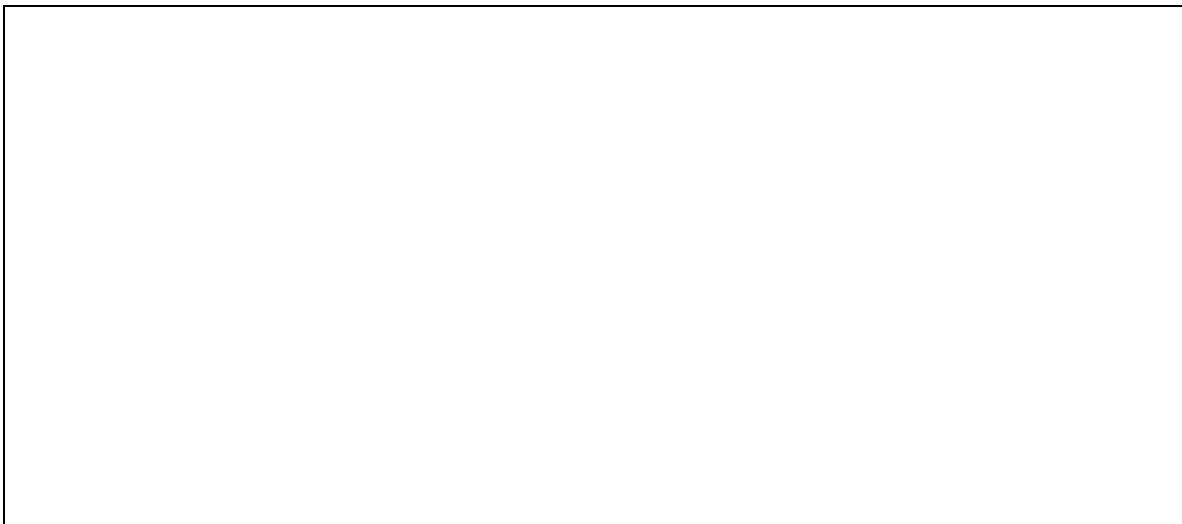


JOURNEY WITH THE WISE MEN

Read the story of the wise men found in Matthew 2:1-12. When you are done, talk about these things:

- ◆ Why do you think magi (wise men) paid attention to the stars?
- ◆ Why was King Herod so upset about the news of Jesus' birth?
- ◆ How do you think the wise men felt when they found Mary and Jesus?
- ◆ If you were taking a gift to the infant Jesus, what would you bring?
- ◆ Explain to others in your family why the wise men thought it best to go home by a different route.

Draw a picture of the wise men in the space below.



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PUT THE CAMELS IN A ROW

Cut apart the following story blocks. Mix them up. Then, put the camels in a row according to what happened in the story of the wise men.



Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king.



Men from the East who studied the stars came to Jerusalem, asking "Where is the baby born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."



When King Herod hear about this, he was very upset.



King Herod called together all the chief priests and teachers of the Law and asked, "Where will the Messiah be born?"



They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea."



Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out the exact time the star had appeared.



He sent the visitors to Bethlehem with these instructions, "Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so I may worship him too."



The wise men left and saw the same bright star. How happy they were!



The star stood over the place where the child was.



They went into the house and worshipped the baby and his mother, Mary.



They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



Then, they returned to their country by another road, since God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

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WRITE A CINQUAIN POEM

Poetry helps us express deep feelings. Use words like these—Jesus, Helper, God, Winter, prayer—to begin a cinquain (pronounced ‘sin-cane’) poem. Here is the pattern for the poem:

- ◆ Line 1: One-word title or subject (see suggestions above)
- ◆ Line 2: Two words that describe the title
- ◆ Line 3: Three action words (verbs) about the title
- ◆ Line 4: Four words that tell your feelings about the title
- ◆ Line 5: The title word again but expressed differently.

If you want to use this as a family prayer, add the word “Amen.”

Here is an example:

Winter
crisp grey
snowing blowing chilling
I long for tulips
Long

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MAKE A THREE KINGS CAKE

Making a Three Kings Cake is a fun way to celebrate the wise men's visit to Jesus. According to tradition, a family is blessed in the New Year by eating together the Three Kings Cake, but the person who finds the wrapped coin in their slice is said to be specially blessed!

Dissolve $\frac{1}{2}$ tbsp **yeast** in 2 tbsp **warm water**. Set aside for 5 minutes. Heat together $\frac{1}{3}$ cup **milk**, $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp **salt**, 3 tbsp **butter**.

Combine 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups **flour**, yeast mixture, milk mixture and 1 **egg**.

Stir until it forms a soft dough, then knead on a lightly floured surface for 10 minutes.

Cover and let rise in a warm place until double (about 1 hour).

Punch down and knead in 2 tbsp **raisins** and 2 tbsp chopped **mixed fruit** (optional).

Let rise for the second time (about 45 minutes).

Punch down and insert a coin, wrapped in tin foil.

Shape into a round loaf; make a 4-inch hole in the center and push the dough into a ring. Place on a greased baking sheet.

Let rise in a warm place for 30 minutes. Bake for 30 minutes.

Glaze

If you wish, you may add a glaze. Combine 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups **icing sugar**, 3 tbsp **butter**, 1 tbsp **milk**, 1 tbsp **vanilla**. Stir together and drizzle over the cake when it is still slightly warm.

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SING A SONG WITH YOUR FAMILY

Here are the words of the hymn “We three kings.” Enjoy it with your family.

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

Chorus:

O star of wonder, star or light,
star of 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 for ever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

Chorus

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity night,
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshipping God on high.

Chorus

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

Chorus

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice:
hallelujah, hallelujah,
sounds through the earth and skies.

Chorus

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MAKE A KING'S CROWN

Although we don't really know if the wise men were kings, they are often presented that way in Christmas stories. It is fun to make a King's Crown. Maybe it will remind you to be wise!

Cut a strip of cardboard long enough to go around your head and overlap slightly. The strip should be about 3 or 4 inches wide.

Cut a zigzag on the top of the cardboard. Decorate the crown with Epiphany symbols—stars, crowns, gifts. Use markers, glitter or stickers.

Staple or tape the ends together to make a crown.

