

# Epiphany Intergenerational Sunday School

January 5, 2020

## LEARNING GOALS

1. To facilitate intergenerational relationships.
2. To introduce the concept of worship acolyte and begin an acolyte ministry.

## SUPPLIES

- White candle from chapel or sanctuary
- Word cards for mixer
- Handouts for small group discussion – printed
- Acolyte sign-up sheet
- Laptop for video
- Sound for music

## LESSON

### GATHERING ACTIVITIES

**Gift Mixer** (5 min): Mingle in the room, trading cards (gold, frankincense, and myrrh) while music plays. When music stops, get in groups (one of each gift) as number is called. Mix 3 times, using one of the following discussion prompts each time:

- Share your name and a gift you were excited to give someone
- Share your name and a gift you were excited to receive
- Share your name and a gift other than money you can give the church

**Song Scramble** (5 min): Cut lines of songs/hymns involving light on paper into strips. Hand them out in a random order to participants. Then participants must find others with lines to their same song and put it together and sing it for the group.

- “We Three Kings of Orient Are” GTG 151 (v. 1)
- “Silent Night, Holy Night!” GTG 122 (v. 3)
- “This Little Light of Mine”
- “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”

### EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

**Impromptu Drama** (10 min): Have folks sit in their groups from Song Scramble. Hand each person a copy of Matthew 2:1-12. Assign the following roles and put on your impromptu play!

- 3 wise men
- 6-8 chief priests and scribes
- King Herod
- Mary & child Jesus
- Gifts
- Star “bearer”

**Small Group Discussion** (10 min): Around tables, have groups (already set from song activity) engage in small group discussion. Hand out papers with the following prompts.

- Name 5 different important objects and/or people from the story we just heard. What makes them important?
- What is the most surprising thing to you about the story of the wise men?

The star in this story is the first use of light in the Gospel of Matthew. Let's look at another passage from the Bible about light.

- Read (insert different passage for each group) and discuss the following. Be prepared to share with the whole group!
  - John 1:1-9
  - Genesis 1:1-5
  - Exodus 13:17-22
  - Psalm 27:1-4
  - John 12:34-36
  - Matthew 5:14-16
- What questions do you have about this passage?
- What happens before and after this passage?
- Does light represent something in this passage? If yes, what? If no, why not?
- What do you learn about light from this passage?

**Large Group Conversation: Light in Worship** (10 min): Bring small groups back into one large group. Facilitate discussion.

- Who knows what the word "epiphany" means?
  - Greek word; means "appearance" or "manifestation" of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn
- The wise men followed the star – the light – to find Jesus in a manger – to find an appearance of God on this earth in the person of Jesus.
  - Concept: Star as guide; light as guide
- How do we follow the light of Christ today? / What do you think that means?
- In worship, we have a white candle – show the candle. What do you think it means when we light it?
  - candles might intentionally be used to illustrate Jesus coming as the Light of the world, or highlight that the Word of God is a light for our path.
  - Represents all of these scriptures we just talked about
- Starting this month, we are going to have people light the candles in worship. What are those people called? Acolytes.
- Learn more about acolyte with Chuck Knows Church:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZGUtqBDY7Q>
- Like the wise men, we follow the light – the light of Christ – to God and Jesus by bringing the light into our worship service.
  - Then we follow the light out into the world to serve as God's children.
- Invite participants (of all ages!) to sign up to serve as acolyte.

**Closing Prayer** (2 min)