

# Explore It TOGETHER

CHRISTMAS  
SESSION 04

## THE JOY OF GIVING

 **Matthew 2:1-12** The Wise Men visit Jesus

Here are some ideas and activities you could do as a family



### Share

There are many people this Christmas who will struggle to have enough food or to buy gifts for their families. As a family talk about and purchase a gift for someone in need this Christmas. You can donate through a local foodbank, The Salvation Army, another charity; or maybe you are already close to someone you can help.



### Sense

On the next clear night, take a look at the stars together. Can you spot any patterns? Does anyone know the names of the constellations? (There are phone apps that help.) What is the brightest star in the sky you can see?

As you look at the stars, remember how the wise men followed the star to Jesus. Think of how many countless millions of stars there are. Consider the vastness of the universe and how small you are in comparison - and yet God knows and loves you.



### Investigate

What can you find out about frankincense? What is it? How is it collected? How is it used? Perhaps buy some frankincense aromatherapy oil, incense sticks or resin and experience what it smells like. Burn some frankincense and see your prayers taken up to Heaven.



### Create

Paper snowflakes are easy and fun to make. No two flakes are the same, so you can be very creative. Share some prayers with your community this Christmas by creating some paper snowflakes and sticking them up in your street when you next go for a walk. (Remember to go back and collect them at a later date.)



### Watch

As a family, enjoy watching a Nativity film together - perhaps The Star. What do you notice about the wise men in this retelling? Is there anything you would like to change, or add to the film?

More ideas and activities on page 2



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### Give

How will you keep sharing the joy of knowing Jesus next year? Do you read Kids Alive!? It's available online at the moment but you can also get a paper copy. Maybe there is a child you know of that you could give it to, to give them a way to learn about Jesus every week for a year. See <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/publications/kids-alive> for details.



### Make

Make a 3D papercraft version of the wise men. Print out the templates, cut, fold and glue each character or prop. While you make them, talk about the wise men: what they did; why they did it; why they gave gifts; why it is part of the Christmas story. <http://jacques-mylittlehouse.blogspot.com/2010/12/bible-paper-toys-book-6-wise-men.html>



### Bake

Bake some star-shaped biscuits or cakes or make some star sandwiches.



### Memorise

'When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy.' (Matthew 2:10 ICB)