



“MAGI PERSEVERE”

Matthew 2

Choose from the activities below to help your family experience the story of the Magi as found in Matthew Chapter 2.

READ:

“Little People, Big Dreams: Greta Thunberg” by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara

- This link on YouTube will take you to a reading of this book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hlswzi0sO1U>

What started with one girl, spread around the whole world. Because it was so important to her, she never gave up. That is perseverance. In fact she is still holding her sign every Friday.

After listening to the book talk about these questions:

- Do you think Greta wanted to give up sometimes?
- Why do you think she has kept going?
- What have you wanted to give up on? Why?
- What kept you going?

LOOK AT STARS AT NIGHT:

Go outside and look up at the night sky. Take a blanket, bundle up, and lie quietly and watch. Talk about these things as you gaze:

- What stars, planets and constellations can you identify?
- Try to count the stars
- Think about the fact that the stars that the Magi saw are some of the same stars you see at night right now.
- How does it make you feel, when you look at the stars?
- When you think of God as the creator of the stars, what feeling does that give you?

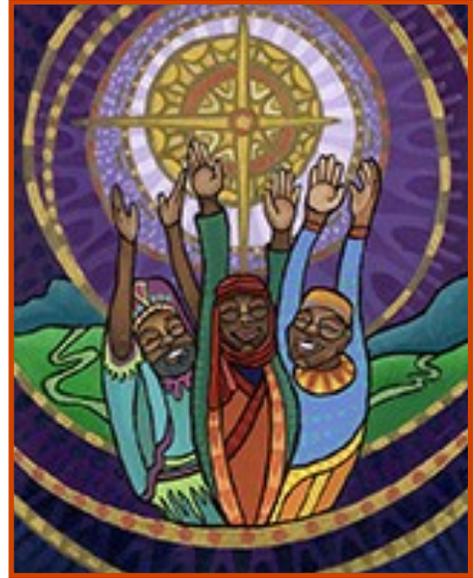
End your time outside by saying a prayer thanking God for the stars which guided the Magi to Jesus, sailors and other travelers on their way over thousands of years, and gives you a sense of awe and wonder at the creative genius of God.

SEARCH FOR BABY JESUS

Take the Jesus figure from any nativity set that you have or a doll. One person hides Jesus. Everyone else searches for him, like the Magi. Tell the searchers if they are getting warmer or colder to finding Jesus. Rejoice like the Magi when you find the child Jesus.

WONDER ABOUT ART

Look at these two depictions of the Magi's journey. The picture on the left was painted in the late 1800's by James Tissot. The picture on the right was created by a modern artist named Lauren Wright and is called *Shining Hope*.



- What do you see in the picture by Tissot that is the same as the story in Matthew Chapter 2?
- How many people are in the picture?
- Why do you think the artist showed this many people and camels?
- How is the picture by Lauren Wright different?
- How does her artwork make you feel?
- What do you like about each picture the most?
- What do you think the Magi thought about on their long journey?
- Do you think that they ever wanted to give up?
- Why do you think they kept going?

LISTEN TO A SONG:

Over time, the Magi have morphed in our storytelling to be Three Kings. And the versions of the birth of Baby Jesus in Luke and Matthew have been combined to get the story we see & hear today with the shepherds and the Magi at the manger. This (www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxTxu3A1f7k) is a great rendition of *We Three Kings* that incorporates the traditional lyrics with new lyrics. It is from the animated movie, "The Star".

I hope that this lesson will help you and your family persevere through this new year knowing in your head and feeling in your heart the great love of God. That love is what keeps me going and, I hope you too, even when I want to give up.

Mrs. Renee