

The Tale Of A Camel

Key Word: Warning

Key Verse: When they saw that the star had stopped they were overwhelmed with joy.
Matthew 2:10

I was young when we left on the journey, but I was eager for adventure. I was chosen by Balthasar to carry the gifts, which would be used to get us more food when we ran out. I felt very special. We carried two other kings, Caspar and Melchior.

We were following a star so bright it lit the whole sky. There were rumors we were going to visit a new prince, for the only time a star like that appears is before the birth of a really important prince.

It was a very long journey and when our food was gone, it was hard. I couldn't understand why each of our masters kept back one gift and refused to use it to buy food. Melchior had brought a gold shrine. He could have fed us all with that gold, but he kept it to give to the new prince. Caspar had brought frankincense in a jar, to anoint this prince. I took a peek at the gift I was carrying. I was so embarrassed. My master, King Balthasar, had brought myrth to welcome the new prince! Myrth! Can you believe it? Everyone knows that myrth is a burial spice. I was so upset that my master was offering myrth. I decided to do something about it.

I tried to get rid of the saddlebag several times, but they kept putting it back on me. I hoped that the jar would be damaged, and he would not be able to present such a bad gift.

When we reached the place where the star had stopped, I couldn't believe my eyes. It was a dirty stable at the back of a cheap inn. This couldn't be the place for a new prince! Melchior and Caspar took up their gold and frankincense. Balthasar came to me for his jar of myrth. I know I saw and heard angels. I could see the baby prince lying on a pile of straw. The baby looked at me and smiled. It was as though the baby spoke inside my head. "Don't be upset about the myrth. I will need it one very glorious day for a new beginning!" I didn't really understand, but I was glad to see the myrth was safe. The baby seemed to smile. It was my most happy moment.

I fell on my knees then, and worshiped that new baby with the rest of the camels and the kings.

Questions

Why was the star they were following so special?

Why do you think the wise men went back a different way and did not return to King Herod?

- Picture Differences**
1. Missing Star Bursts
 2. Tree Bigger
 3. Camel Ear Missing
 4. Hat Different
 5. Camel Hair Different
 6. Foot Missing
 7. Doors Missing
 8. Grass Added
 9. Eyebrow Added
 10. Nose Different

Letter Tile Puzzle

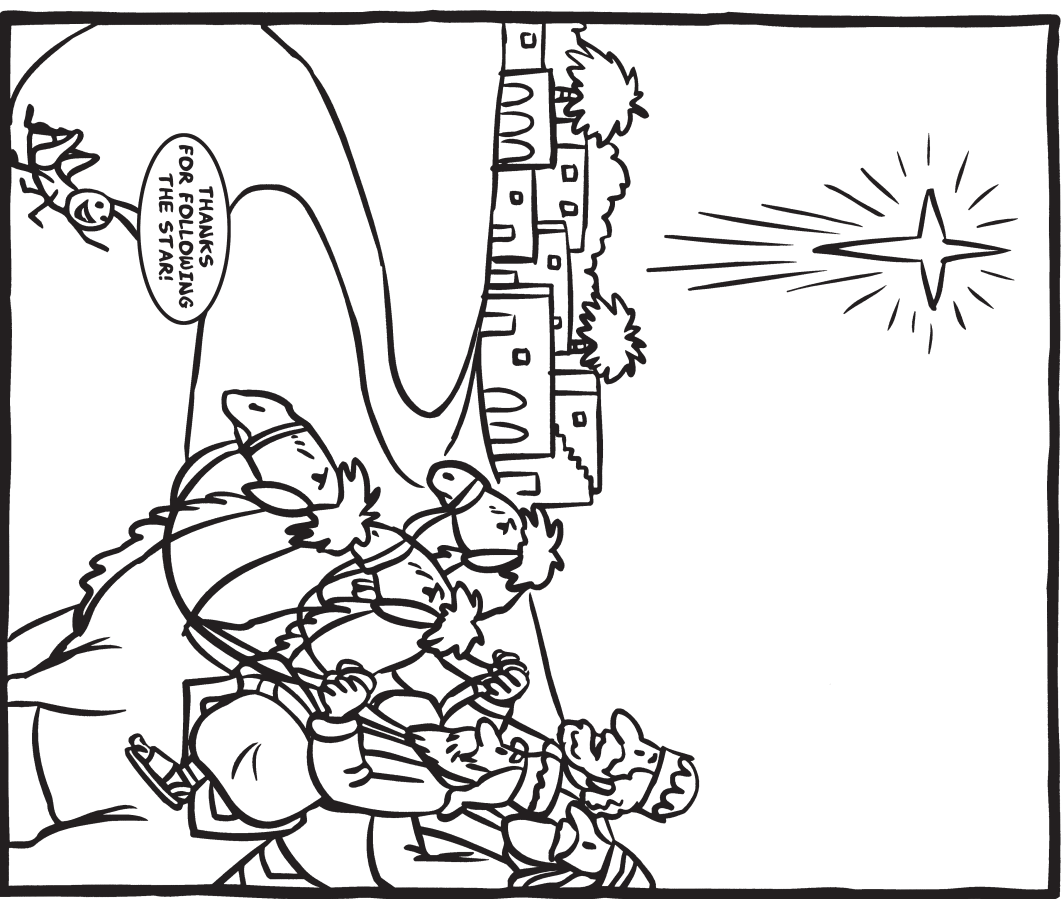
From you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.

- Crossword Puzzle**
- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1. Jew | 1. Myrth |
| 2. Joy | 3. East |
| 3. Prophet | 4. Shepherd |
| 4. Bethlehem | 6. Mother |
| 5. Child | 7. Homage |
| 6. Star | 11. Herod |

Answers

Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story is from **Matthew 2:1-12**

Crossword Puzzle

Complete this crossword puzzle using the clues from today's Gospel story. Read the clues. Then fill in the squares below with the answers to the questions.

Across

- 2. King of the _____
- 5. Overwhelmed with _____
- 8. It has been written by him
- 9. Where Jesus was born
- 10. They were searching for the _____
- 12. The wise men followed this

Down

- 1. One of their gifts
- 3. Where the wise men came from
- 4. _____ my people
- 6. Mary was Jesus'
- 7. Pay him _____
- 11. The time of this king

Letter Tile Puzzle

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message from today's Gospel story. Each tile has the same number of characters (letters, spaces, and punctuation). Spaces are shown as blanks on the letter tiles.

H	E	R	A	E	L	D	M	L	E	Y	P	O	U	I	S	R	W	H
S	H	A	M	Y	L	E	R	C	O	M	O	S	L	L	O	I	R	U
E	A	F	R	O	S	T	E	O	P	H	E	P						

Picture Differences

Below are two drawings. There are ten differences in these drawings. How many can you find? Circle the differences in each drawing then check the answers on the back.

