

Lesson #1-17 (Extended)***God Protects Jesus***

Matthew 1:1-17; Matthew 2:1-23

**Key Verse:**

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Matthew 1:1

And there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Matthew 2:9

The Point:

God fulfills promises and provides us with guidance and protection.

Unit Theme (December 25—January 20)

God's Promise of Jesus

Extra, Extra, Read All About It!

Considering the story in our current context.

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils

Instructions:

1. Sometimes it is helpful to reflect on a story in our current context, shifting the events to a familiar time and place.
2. Look together at the reading from Matthew 2. As you read, write down people, methods of travel and communication, gifts given, and places mentioned in the story.
3. As small groups, brainstorm replacements for the list you have made that would bring the story into our context. For example, the Magi might have followed GPS rather than a star. Jesus' family may have fled as refugees to somewhere other than Egypt.
4. Select a scribe and together rewrite the "news" story with your changes.
5. What was it like to reflect upon the story in this way? Did it make you think about the Epiphany story differently? How did you connect it to current events?