

# The Wise Men Meet the Savior

Written by Hope Montz, Laura Stahl, and Erika Tobin  
Adapted from Matthew 2, and Luke 2:40  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Olympia, WA

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*As the play begins, we see the **manger scene** lit up like at the end of the Christmas program. The star comes down as the **kings** begin their journey following the **star** around the sanctuary while the congregation sings "We Three Kings" and then as the **lights** go down, two people appear with a **sign** that reads, "Two Years Later."*

*While the kings are traveling.... the **manger scene** is removed and replaced with King Herod's **throne, palm trees, King Herod**, and two **attendants** fanning the king.*

**Narrator 1:** (***Star** leads wise men to King Herod and then vanishes.*) In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking:

**Wise men:** (*One person will speak for the others but all three will be out there*) "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." (*Wise men move off stage, but stay nearby - in the sacristy.*)

**Narrator 2:** (***King Herod** looks scared, motions for **chief priests** and **scribes** to enter.*) When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

**Herod:** Where was this Messiah to be born?

**Chief Priests and Scribes:** (*Unroll scroll.*) "The Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

**Chief Priests and Scribes:** (*Exit. **Herod** sends one of you to be sneaky and bring back the wise men, then exit with others.*)

**Narrator 3:** (***Wise men** come back quietly. **Herod** and **wise men** gesture as if talking.*) Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. (*Pause*) Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying:

**Herod:** "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage. "

**Narrator 1:** (*Lights dim. Herod's scene goes away and is replaced by Jesus' house. Wise men again follow the star around the sanctuary and stop at the house of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. When the star stops over the house, the wise men jump for joy.*) When they had heard the king, they set out; 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.

**Congregation Sings:** "Thy Word"

**Narrator 2:** When they saw that the star had stopped, (*Star stops over house*) they were overwhelmed with joy.

**Narrator 2:** (*Wise men approach house and kneel and bow with folded hands.*) As they drew near the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Narrator 3:** (*Wise men present gifts and rise. Angel appears and points in grand style to door behind sacristy.*) And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Music:** A few bars of "We Three Kings"

**Mary, Joseph, Jesus:** (*Go to sleep.*)

**Narrator 3:** (*Lights dim. Light shines on angel and angel shines light on Joseph. Joseph is sleeping. The light awakens him. The angel appears to Joseph and points to another exit.*) Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said:

**Angel:** "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

**Narrator 1:** (*Joseph - carrying a lantern, Mary, and Jesus exit - and circle back to front. Add palm/ ficus trees to make the house look like it's now in Egypt.*) Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

**Travel Music:** "Emmanuel" Group of people sing this song. (*Sign reading "Egypt" is carried across the stage.*)

**Mary, Joseph, Jesus:** (*Sleep again.*)

**Narrator 2:** (*Lights come up and then back down to signal the passing of time. Angel appears again and points the other direction.*) When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,

**Angel:** “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.”

**Travel Music:**

**Narrator 3:** *(Remove **palm/ficus trees**, and replace with a saw horse and carpentry tools, including a toy **tool bench** for Jesus. **Joseph, Mary,** and “older” **Jesus** exit and circle back to front the opposite direction. Begin carpentry work. **Lights** come up.)* Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel, and dwelt in Nazareth. *(Pause and WAIT for Jesus to start the growth transition.) (Switch out **Jesus** several times to show Him growing into an adult.)* The child grew, and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him.

**Congregation Sings:** “The First Noel”

**Props:**

Star  
Star Wands  
Manger  
Throne  
Palm Trees or Ficus Trees  
Fans  
Scroll  
Gifts: Gold, Frankincense, and myrrh  
Lantern  
Spot Light  
Sign: “Two Years Later”  
Sign: “Egypt”  
Saw Horse  
Carpentry Tools  
Toy Tool Bench  
Costumes  
Jesus Doll  
Jesus’ House

# Characters:

Angel: \_\_\_\_\_

Mary: \_\_\_\_\_

Wise Men: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Star: \_\_\_\_\_

Little Stars: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Fan People: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

King Herod: \_\_\_\_\_

Star Light: \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus, two year -old: \_\_\_\_\_

Older Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign Carriers: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Camel Carriers: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Priests and Scribes: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Jesus transitioning to a man:

1- \_\_\_\_\_

2- \_\_\_\_\_

3- \_\_\_\_\_

4- \_\_\_\_\_

5- \_\_\_\_\_

6- \_\_\_\_\_

7- \_\_\_\_\_

8- \_\_\_\_\_

9- \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph: \_\_\_\_\_

Narrator 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Narrator 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Narrator 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Lights: \_\_\_\_\_

## Stage Hands:

Herod's Throne Scene: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus' House Scene: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_