

CHRISTMAS LOVE FOR GOD'S GLOBAL FAMILY

December 23, 2023

Bible Readings

Take a few minutes to read the Bible verses listed and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in how this verse applies to you this week.

Matthew 2:1-12

Memory Verse

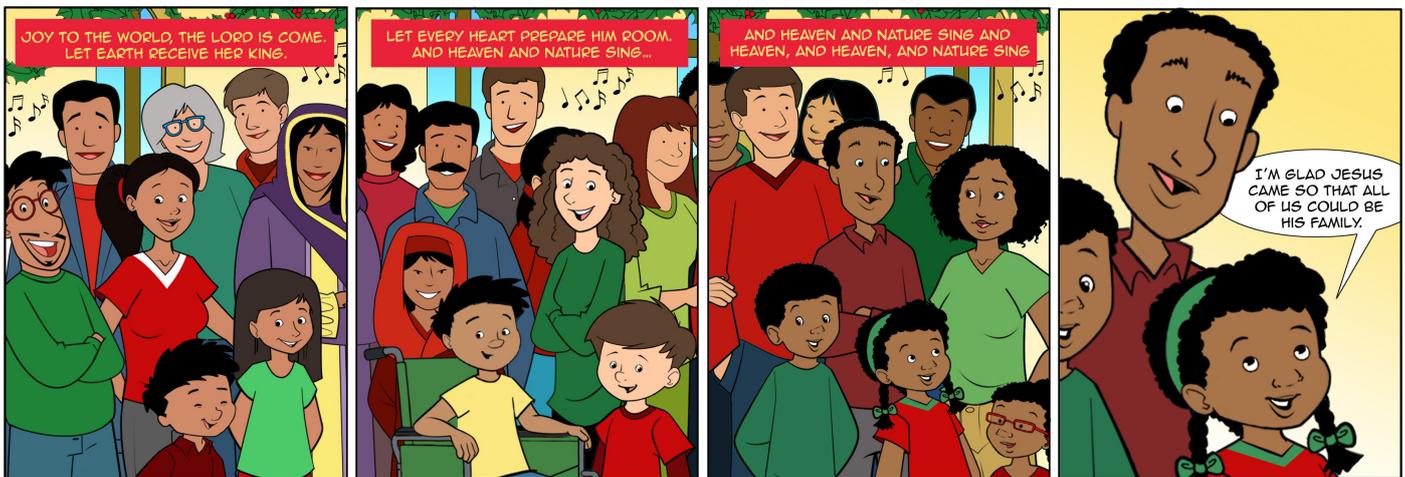
“They were thrilled and excited to see the star. When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him.” CEV

Matthew 2:10-11



CASEY'S DAY

written by Ron VandenBurg
illustrated by Chad Thompson



Think of the word “family.” What comes to mind? Maybe you think of your parents or siblings. You might think of your cousins. You may think of your pets. But did you know that you have a family that’s bigger than you think? In fact, you are part of a family that’s all around the world: God’s family!

The wise men were, as you may guess, *very* wise. So wise, in fact, that the king would ask them for advice. And they were wise enough to follow the star of David when they saw it rise in the sky. They knew that it was a sign from God and followed it all the way to Bethlehem, which was hundreds of miles from their home. When they arrived at the home of Mary and Joseph, they bowed to Jesus and worshiped him. Yes, he was only a child. But they knew he was the Son of God, the King they had been waiting for. The wise men gave gifts to Jesus, but they weren’t usual baby gifts, like rattles and blankets and stuffed animals. They were gifts for a King: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Though they had lived far away, they knew that God wanted

them to know his Son, to be a part of his family.

Just like the wise men, we can choose to follow Jesus. By accepting the gift of his love, we give him a big gift: our hearts. After all, God's family isn't brought together by speaking the same language or wearing the same clothes. We don't look the same or eat the same food. We're brought together by the love of Jesus, which was shown on the first Christmas.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for inviting us all into your family. Thank you that the gift of Jesus' love is for everyone around the world. Please help me to share your love with others. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

written by Areo Keller-Donahue

<https://kidscorner.net/devotions/christmas-love-for-gods-global-family>
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