**WHY were the WISE MEN really WISE GUYS???**

1. They read and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word.

studied the scriptures, prophecies and signs

1. they searched for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

traveled a long distance to find him

1. they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_who jesus was.

brought valuable gifts suitable for a king:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (kingship)
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (worship)
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(death & healing)
4. they Humbled themselves to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus

bowed down to the christ child

1. they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God instead of man

went home a different way and did not tell king herod

**WHY were the WISE MEN really WISE GUYS???**

1. They read and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word.

*studied the scriptures, prophecies and signs*

1. they searched for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*traveled a long distance to find him*

1. they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_who jesus was.

*brought valuable gifts suitable for a king*:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(kingship)*
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(worship)*
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*(death & healing)*
4. they Humbled themselves to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus

*bowed down to the christ child*

1. they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God instead of man

*went home a different way and did not tell king herod*

Answers:

1. believed
2. jesus
3. recognised
4. gold
5. frankinsense
6. myrrh
7. worship
8. obeyed

**Question: "What does the Bible say about the three wise men (Magi)?"**

**Answer:** We assume that there were three wise men because of the three gifts that were given: gold, incense, and myrrh ([Matthew 2:11](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%202.11)). However, the Bible does not say there were only three wise men. There could have been many more. Tradition says that there were three and that their names were Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, but since the Bible does not say, we have no way of knowing whether the tradition is accurate.

It is a common misconception that the wise men visited Jesus at the stable on the night of His birth. In fact, the wise men came days, months, or possibly even years later. That is why [Matthew 2:11](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%202.11) says the wise men visited and worshiped Jesus in a house, not at the stable.

We know that the magi were wise men from "the East," most likely Persia, or modern-day Iran. This means the wise men traveled 800 to 900 miles to see the Christ child. Most likely, the magi knew of the writings of the prophet Daniel, who in time past had been the chief of the court seers in Persia. [Daniel 9:24-27](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Dan%209.24-27) includes a prophecy which gives a timeline for the birth of the Messiah. Also, the magi may have been aware of the prophecy of Balaam (who was from the town of Pethor on the Euphrates River near Persia) in [Numbers 24:17](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Num%2024.17). Balaam's prophecy specifically mentions a “star coming out of Jacob.”

The wise men were guided to look for the King of the Jews by a miraculous stellar event, the "Star of Bethlehem," which they called "His star" ([Matthew 2:2](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%202.2)). They consulted with King Herod in Jerusalem concerning the birth of Christ and were directed to Bethlehem ([Matthew 2:4-8](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%202.4-8)). They followed God's guidance joyfully ([Matthew 2:10](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%202.10)). Their gifts for Jesus were costly, and they worshiped Him. God warned them in a dream against returning to Herod, so, in defiance of the king, they left Judea by another route ([Matthew 2:12](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%202.12)).

**So, the magi were men who 1) read and believed God's Word, 2) sought Jesus, 3) recognized the worth of Christ, 4) humbled themselves to worship Jesus, and 5) obeyed God rather than man. They were truly wise men!**

Info about wise men

<http://reformedperspectives.org/articles/kno_chamblin/NT.Chamblin.Matt.2.1-23.pdf>

Info about The 3 gifts

**Gold**

* Gold, as it is today was very valuable. To find gold you have to dig underground and find which was very difficult back in Bible times because you didn’t have the tools you have today.
* Gold has always been a means of exchange…something that for Mary & Joseph would come in handy as they would soon travel to Egypt and would need food, clothing and shelter.
* Symbolically Gold represents kingship. The King that Christ is for us. It also represents the purification process we go through in our trials as a Christian.
* Gold is one of the only metals that when heated with fire will not lose anything of it’s nature, weight, color, or any other property. Genuine faith is the same way. Gold is used in scripture when talking about the strength of someone’s faith. Job refers to gold after he has been through all his trials. Job 23:10 Jobs says, “But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure gold.”

**Frankincense**

* Frankincense is made by cutting a tree named “Arbor Thurisfrom” found Persia, Arabia and India. It’s like a sap that is gathered and then dried for 3 months and becomes a like a hardened resin or gum.
* Frankincense is used as a perfume but mostly it was burned as a sweet incense during worship. During the Exodus Aaron would burn Frankincense at the alter as a sweet offering to the Lord.
* Practically Frankincense would be a familiar smell to baby Jesus as this was the same God that was worshiped in the Old Testament. It would also help it getting the stable smelling better with all those animals in there with them. You could say that Frankincense was kinda of the Yankee Candle of that time.
* Symbolically Frankincense represented the divinity of Christ because as mentioned Frankincense was burnt as an offering to God.

**Myrrh**

* Myrrh, like Frankincense, also is the sap from a tree that is hardened and then used. However, unlike, Frankincense which is sweet…Myrrh has a bitter taste to it.
* Myrrh was mostly used to embalm the dead because it had the property to preserve. It was also used as a perfume, an ingredient of holy ointments mentioned in Exodus but it’s most practical use for Mary & Joseph would be it’s medical uses. Today Myrrh is used today in toothpaste, mouthwash and make-up.
* Lastly, Myrrh represents the bitter cup that Christ had to drink in suffering for our sins and the healing for us that his death brings.

This Bible Study was prepared by Jason Forthofer of PlanetHoly.com.