

## Festivals Session 3: Epiphany Journey

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 2: 1-12 (NRSV)

**Focus Verse:** Matthew 2: 11

On entering 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.

### Aim

To help us re-focus on Jesus at the start of the New Year and give our hearts to Him afresh.

### Messy team conversations

What travels did we do in our younger days? Journeys to see relatives, journeys of discovery?

What special gifts do we remember?

### Activity

For an Epiphany mobile, you will need: a large (~12" diameter) or individual smaller metal rings (eg metal coat hangers or floristry rings); ribbon; felt, gold card; a hole punch; self-adhesive googly eyes for the camels.

The objects that hang on the mobile are: a large gold star, 3 brown camels cut out from felt or cardboard (see templates) a gold crown, items to represent the gifts from the Magi (eg a small gold box, a small net bag containing little pebbles, a felt shape), a card heart for each person to write their names on and a prayer if wished. Connect each item with ribbon to the central ring, ensuring they have space in between, and suspend the mobile with more ribbons in an open space where it can move. You may need an explanation alongside!

### Celebration

Thinking about a new year ahead, hopes and plans, perhaps some anxieties, but what is most important?

Read verse 1 of the poem – “I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year” by Minnie Louise Haskins.

If possible listen quietly to ‘In the bleak midwinter’ and reflect on the words of the last verse.

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?*

*If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;*

*If I were a wise man, I would do my part;*

*yet what I can I give Him: give, my heart.*

How can we give our hearts to Jesus? What can we do to follow Him in the coming days?

### Prayer

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child; guide and sustain us, that we may find our journeys end in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Song suggestions

We three Kings of Orient are

Brightest and best of the suns of the morning

Hills of the north rejoice

One more step along the world I go

Lord of the dance



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