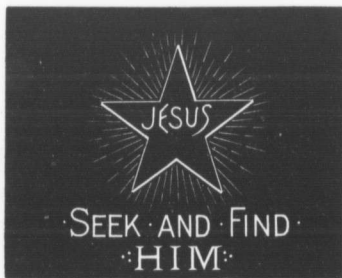


Blackboard.



This is a Christmas lesson. Its application is for each one of us to follow the example of the wise men, and seek and find Jesus.

DIRECTIONS FOR DRAWING.—To draw the star first make a circle the size you wish the star to be. Do this with a piece of chalk tied to a string. Make a dot exactly on the top of the circle; that will be where the upper point of the star will rest. Divide the circle into five equal parts, commencing at the top mark and counting that as the first mark. Rule the outlines of the star from the dots made on the circle. Do this with white chalk, and then take light yellow chalk and rule the rays of light out to the circle. The circle should be made faintly, so as not to show.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *Looking for Jesus.*

Introductory Story. Several years ago two Christians from Syria came to America. They had heard of Jesus and learned to love him. But they were persecuted for their faith, just as the disciples were so long ago, and had to fly from their country to save their lives. They knew the name of one Christian in the American city where they landed, and they tried to find him. They called him the "Jesus man." They were following a star, but it was not a star in the sky; it was the star of faith in Jesus. And it brought them to the right place, too. It brought them to Christian friends and home and happy work for Jesus.

[Make a beautiful star on the board.] When Jesus was born (how long ago was it?) some wise men came a long way to find him. They were willing to spend a great deal of time and take a great deal of trouble to find Jesus, for they had true wisdom—the wisdom that God gives.

They had heard that Jesus was coming, and they wanted to see him and worship him. God saw the wish in their hearts, and he showed them how to find him. He always knows the heart that

truly wants Jesus, and sends some servant of his to show the way.

Do you know what servant of God showed the wise men the way? Yes, it was a star! The sun and moon and stars are all God's servants. The trees and the flowers, and every living thing that grows and moves—all are made to serve the great, good God. They belong to him, for he made them. Do you not think they ought to be glad to serve him?

Has he any little servants here, in this room, to-day? If a star could show the way to Jesus, do you not think a little Christian child could? But the child must first know the way himself, then he can show it to others.

[Print, "His servants shall serve him."] Shall we not hide this text away in our hearts, and always think of it when we see the star?

[Make a crown, or pin one to the board cut from gilt paper.]

The wise men were looking for a king, one whom they could worship and obey. Do we want to give up our own way, and let the King of love and goodness rule over us? If we do the star of faith will go before and show the way.

The wise men came to Jerusalem, and there was another king. Herod was his name, and he was afraid he would be put off his throne. He was troubled when he heard how these wise men came from so far seeking King Jesus! He sent for the Jewish priests and scribes, and asked them where the Scriptures said Christ must be born. They told him the prophets said in Bethlehem. Then he sent for the wise men, and told them to go there and find the new King, and then to come and bring him word, so that he could go there and worship him too. This was not the truth. He wanted to know where to find Jesus, so that he might send and kill him; but God did not permit this.

If you should start to-day to find Jesus, some wicked Herod of pride or selfishness or untruth would try to keep you from him. But if you keep right on you may be sure the star of faith will lead you straight to him.

When the wise men found Jesus in the lowly cattle shed they were full of joy! They knew they had found their King, and they worshiped him and gave him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh, the very best things they had!

[Make several small hearts on the board, and print above, "Give me thy heart."]

We cannot bring gold and rich spices to our Lord, but we can bring what he asks—our hearts. And we can bring them now at this glad Christmas time, when so many eyes are turned toward the manger and the holy Babe.

Shall we follow the star of faith and prayer, and find Jesus for our own dear Lord and Saviour?