

Knowing that Herod was king in Judæa, they came first to him asking their way. "Tell us," they said, "where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When Herod and his friends heard about the new king they were afraid, thinking it all a plot to take away his throne. But as he was unable to answer the questions of his guests, Herod called the priests and scribes and asked if they knew where Christ should be born. "In Bethlehem of Judæa," was the reply, "for so it is written by the prophet Micah."

Herod now pretended to be much interested in the search of the wise men, and inquired particularly about the star which they had seen. And intending to find out exactly where the babe was, that he might kill him, he said to the wise men, "Go and seek carefully for the young child and bring me word where he is, that I may come and worship him also."

So the wise men left Jerusalem, the star of the east going before them until it stopped over Joseph's house in Bethlehem. The strangers entered the house with great joy, and finding the young child with Mary his mother, fell down and worshipped Him. And when they had opened their bags, they presented Him with gifts; gold and precious perfumes and spices, which were the first Christmas presents. Then, being warned by God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, the wise men departed into their own country by another way.

Lesson Story

Suppose, children, you should say to Father Time, "Please send me on December twenty-fifth a merry Christmas," and he should answer, "What kind do you want?" some of you, I know, would ask for plenty of candy and oranges, not forgetting a sled and picture books. But after all, though the old man might send you all these things, he would probably shake his head, saying, "These children are not getting the merry Christmas they wanted, after all."

"How may you be sure of getting what you want?" "Father Time," you should

say, "put into my Christmas plenty of kindness and love and merry songs, and unselfishness, and the spirit of sharing with others." Then you will be sure to get a true merry Christmas.

Lesson Hymn

Lord, while for all mankind we pray,
Of every clime and coast,
O hear us for our native land,
The land we love the most. Amen.
—Hymn 503, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—64. Can a little child be a Christian? Yes. Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God."

SHORTER CATECHISM—107. What doth the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us? A. The conclusion of the Lord's prayer (which is, *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen*) teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him. And, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, *Amen*.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

We all know and love the Union Jack. It waves over the dominions of our wise and peace-loving king. To him we are sincerely



loyal. At the same time we have another and greater King, even Jesus. We should love Him with all our hearts, and show our love by obeying His laws.

I Have Learned To-day that
GOD HONORS THOSE WHO HONOR HIM