

to be born. *The Christ* (Rev. Ver.); the anointed One, the Messiah.

Vs. 5, 6. *Thus it is written.* The quotation is from Micah 5 : 2, a passage much used by the scribes and the pious Jews. *A governor which shall be shepherd of,* (Rev. Ver.); not only ruling but caring for the people.

V. 7. *Privily*; privately, so that he might lay his cruel plans without anyone knowing his secret. *What time the star appeared.* He believed that the star had appeared at the time of the birth. Thus he would be able to tell the age of the child.

V. 8. *Search diligently.* Herod knew that a usurper's family would hide the child away from him if they could. *That I may worship him.* Cunning and hypocrisy were well known characteristics of Herod.

V. 9. *Lo . . . the star . . . went before them.* God can use many methods to lead men to Jesus. *It came and stood over where the young child was;* the part of the city, perhaps the very house.

V. 10. *With exceeding great joy;* for they had found what they had come so far to see.

V. 11. *Come into the house.* Jesus had been born in a manger, and it may have been weeks before. (Luke 2 : 21, 22, 39.) *Fell down and worshipped;* as a king. Men of great faith, to see in the babe Jesus what others cannot see, even after His wonderful life. *Opened their treasures.* In the East one never visits a king without bringing him a gift. *Frankincense,* a costly gum of aromatic flavor. *Myrrh,* also a gum exuding from trees and much used as a perfume and medicine.

FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

Introduction. Raise hands all who know what day Tuesday is? Oh yes, all hands are up! Christmas Day! How delightful! (For whose birthday is it kept?) Speak of Christmas joys, gifts, etc. Teach : "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Speak of some ways in which we can make the day happier for some who have no Christmas pleasures. Let us share our good things. Do the children know what were the very first "Christmas Gifts" and to whom they were brought? (We are going to hear about it.) Tell about the "Unspeakable Gift" sent to the world from our Heavenly Father.

(Refer to some of the promises regarding the Gift, Micah 5 : 2; Isaiah 9 : 6; the promise to Mary, Luke 1.)

Lessons—Let the children tell you the story of the birth of the baby Jesus. Picture the visit of the wise men, using simple outlines, strokes, etc., to represent Herod, etc., the wise men following the star (silver paper), then the scene in Bethlehem, the arrival of the wise men, the presentation of the gifts, etc. An attractive lesson may be taught, by using the sand tray—Herod's palace, groups of people, wise men travelling to Bethlehem, birth-place of Jesus, etc., being represented by small objects which the ingenuity of the teacher will suggest. Do not try to make the objects too real in appearance, but depend upon the imaginative power of the children.

Practical thoughts—Speak of a foolish child who refused a gift from his father.

Thankfulness for the Gift (Golden Text) and acceptance of Him should be the thought impressed. (Teach John 12 : 48.)

