

HOME STUDY LEAFLET.

LESSON 3.

JULY 15th, 1894.

3rd QUARTER.

Visit of the Wise Men. Matt. 2: 1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT: "They saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him." Matt. 2: 11.

COMMIT TO MEMORY verses 9-11. Children's Hymnal 66, 233, 21, 22.

PROVE THAT—We should offer our best to God. 2 Sam. 24: 24.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Quest. 84. What doth every sin deserve?

DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH.
Matt. 2: 1-12	Isa. 60: 1-7	Micah 5: 1-4	Ps. 72: 1-15	Phil. 2: 1-11	John. 5: 17-23	Rev. 5: 8-14

To the Teacher—Do not credit any Scholar with having prepared the lesson who does not at least try to answer the questions. Take the leaflet home and assign a value to each answer, announcing the result on the following Sabbath. *Take, or send, the leaflet to absent scholars.*

Always bring your Bible and Shorter Catechism to the Sabbath School.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY.—Our lessons pass from one gospel to another so as to bring the events of our Saviour's life in their proper order. Incidents omitted by Luke are found in Matthew, and so with the others. Matthew tells us nothing about the birth of Jesus and his presentation in the temple, and Luke omits the visit of the wise men. This shows that they did not copy from each other but wrote independent narratives. If Christ was born on the 25th December, the Presentation in the Temple would have taken place on February 2nd., forty days after, and the visit of the wise men was probably shortly after that. Had they come before with their costly gifts, it is not likely that Mary would have made the offering of the poor when she presented him to the priest.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Child Sought. vs. 1-2 II. The Child Feared. vs. 3-8. III. The Child Worshipped vs. 9-12.

I. THE CHILD SOUGHT. 1. Bethlehem of Judea—By what other names was it called? (Judges 17: 7. Gen. 35: 19. Micah 5: 2. Luke 2: 11.) There was another Bethlehem about six miles west of Nazareth, in the tribe of Zebulun. (Josh. 19: 15.) Herod—Called Herod the Great. He rebuilt the temple in great magnificence, but was a cruel tyrant. He was not an independent monarch but was subject to the Roman emperor. **Wise Men**—R. V. marg. "Magi" see Esther 1: 13. Dan. 2: 12. They belonged to a priestly caste who devoted themselves to the study of science, particularly of astronomy. Daniel was at one time their chief, and from him they may have learned

to look for the new king at this time. They probably came from Persia, and naturally expected to find the young king at the royal palace in the capital city. 2. There was a general expectation throughout the East at this time that a powerful monarch was to be born. This was doubtless due to a dim knowledge of the Jewish prophecies, but his true character was not well known. There may have been some wonderful conjunction of the planets at this time, but the star which led the wise men was miraculous for it pointed out the very house in which the child was. Who called Jesus "a Star"? (Num 24: 17. Isa. 60: 3.) What does he call himself in Rev. 22: 16.

II. THE CHILD FEARED. 3. He was troubled—Herod was a usurper and feared that the lawful king would dethrone him. The people feared the cruelty and bloodshed by which Herod would try to keep his throne. 4. Chief priests—These were the heads of the twenty-four courses into which the priests were divided. (1 Chr. 24: 26.) Scribes—These copied and taught the Law. A number of them were associated with the chief priests to form the Sanhedrim, or supreme court of the Jews. If anybody knew, these should be able to tell where their king was. The Christ (R. V.)—It is evident from this question that Herod knew what sort of a king the wise men meant. He did not welcome the Messiah, the "Consolation of Israel," like Simeon and Anna. 6. They had no difficulty in answering a question out of the Bible, but did not seem to care to come to Him of whom the Bible spoke. Micah 5: 2; John 7: 42; read John 5: 39, 40. Princes—Malachi says "thousands" that is the numerous divisions of the nation each with its prince, or head. That shall rule—R. V. "Which shall be shepherd of," shall rule in love and mercy. John 10: 11; Isa. 40: 11. 7. Privily—Privately. He did not want anyone to know that he had consulted with them. He thought that the star probably appeared just when the Child was

born, and thus he would have some clue to his age, so he made very particular enquiries on this point. From the information he obtained he judged that if he slew all under two years old he would certainly slay Jesus. 8. Worship him also—Herod had a heart like that of Judas. He would pretend to worship when he meant to kill.

III. THE CHILD WORSHIPPED. 9, 10. The star seems to have disappeared for a time and now again gives its guiding light. It must have been a supernatural appearance close to the earth, or else it could not have marked out the particular house. 11. The house—The throng of visitors had left Bethlehem and the "Holy family" were more comfortably lodged than on their arrival about six weeks before. Fell down—A reverent attitude. Worshipped—A reverent heart. Presented—A willing gift. They gave no homage to Mary. Treasures—Treasure-chests? Gifts—They treated him like a king. God intended these gifts to defray the expense of the coming journey to Egypt. Gold—Ps. 72: 15. Emblematic of his royalty. Frankincense—Used in religious rites and emblematic of his divinity. Myrrh—Used in embalming and emblematic of his death. These were fragrances very precious. 12. There is no plot of villany so secretly laid but God knows all about it and can frustrate it.

To the Scholar.—Study the lesson carefully, turning up the marginal references and reading the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and try to answer in writing the questions following *without accepting aid from any quarter* after you have begun to write. Then bring this leaflet to Sabbath School with you on the day of its date. If you cannot come, fill out the blank and send the leaflet (with the answers written out) to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

- 1.—Who came seeking Jesus and what did they ask? (4)
- 2.—Why were Herod and the people of Jerusalem troubled? (6)
- 3.—Whom did Herod call together and what did he ask them? (4)
- 4.—What did he inquire of the wise men and what did he tell them to do? (4)
- 5.—How were the wise men guided to the house where Jesus was? (3)
- 6.—What did they do when they came in? (4)

Name, _____

Dear Teacher,—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because _____ I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory _____ verses in addition to the Golden Text, and _____ Questions in the Catechism and have recited them to _____ I was at church _____ I send with this my Weekly Offering of _____ cents.