



By Another Way
The Story of the Wise Men
By Deborah Wassenberg

Thanks to Vision Media 180 for this idea. With some help from aviation videos I was able to write a very different Christmas lesson about the Wise Men! The lesson could be adapted to be a Christmas presentation by your Kid's Church. Listening to the Holy Spirit is good advice for little kids and big kids!

You Tube Song Suggestions:

- What a Glorious Night (chapelhill kids)
- Feelin' Like Christmas (chapelhill kids)
- Silent Night (Christmas Songs and Carols – Love to Sing)
- Star of the Morning (Hillsong Kids)

Sketch: Control Tower

Scene: A Christmas Tree in a living room.
It is surrounded by presents.

Characters: Henry and his older sister Scarlett dressed in Christmas pyjamas.

*House lights are down. The sound of wrapping paper being torn can be heard.
House lights are up. Henry is frozen, a gift in one hand, and wrapping paper in the other.*

Scarlett enters at a run.

Scarlett: Henry!
I knew it was you!

Henry: What?
I was on my way to the kitchen.
And I slipped.
And this present broke my fall.
And I was just checking it was okay.

Scarlett: Liar!
You're opening your presents.
How could you?
You'll ruin Christmas for everyone!

Henry: Nah.
I've only opened the ones with my name on them.
Except this one which was yours.
(Holding up the present in his hand)
Sorry.
Had trouble reading the tag in the dark.
Nice earrings by the way.
(Throws present back under the tree)

Scarlett: But what about Mum and Dad?
They want to watch you open your presents.

Henry: Why? I told them what I wanted so it's no surprise to them!
Look, here's the plane I asked for.
(Hold up and 'fly' plane)
A Cessna 172 Skyhawk.
(In a mock pilot's voice)
'Archerfield Tower, Cessna 776, over the
river, inbound, requesting landing.'

Scarlett: What's going on, Henry?
You seem to be in trouble every time I turn around.

Henry: *(Sighing)*
I know.
I don't seem to do anything right.
I guess I'm the trouble maker people say I am.
(Crash lands the plane into the Christmas tree)
There's nothing I can do about it.

Scarlett: Rubbish.
(Picks up the plane)
How does a pilot know when he can land?

Henry: Easy.
By contacting the tower.
The pilot makes a request, the tower gives the information
and the pilot repeats it back.
That's the confirmation.

Scarlett: Right.
What could happen if the pilot doesn't talk to the tower?

Henry: Well, if conditions are good the pilot might be able to 'wing it'.
But, on the other hand, it could lead to a disaster.

Scarlett: Exactly!
The tower might want to delay the landing or ask the pilot to enter air space **by another way**.
Your problem is you've been 'winging it'.
But you're heading for disaster unless you learn to go **by another way**.

Henry: What do you keep saying '**by another way**'?

Scarlett: I was reading the Christmas story in my Bible and that phrase really leapt out at me.
I'll tell you about it...

Bible Story: The Wise Men Visit the Messiah

Bible References: Matthew 2:1-17

Scarlett tells the Bible story. Flashcards could be used for small groups or a PowerPoint presentation for larger groups. You'll find free illustrations at [Free Bible Images](#). Or you could use leaders to act out the story!

1. (Picture: Shepherds visiting Jesus)

Jesus was born in a stable in the town of Bethlehem in Judea.
The angel of the Lord appeared and told the shepherds about the good news. 'For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.'
The shepherds ran to the stable to see Jesus lying in a manger.

2. (Picture: Wise Men see the Star)

In the East, the news was announced in quite another way.
At the birth of Jesus, a star appeared.
Wise men, not kings but astronomers who studied the night sky, knew the unusual new star was significant.
It was the sign that the King of the Jews had been born.
(Numbers 24:17)
The star went before them and they followed it.

3. (Picture: Wise Men in Jerusalem)

They arrived in Jerusalem, the capital city of Israel.

After entering the city they asked people for the whereabouts of the baby.

‘Where is the one who had been born King of the Jews?’

We saw His star when it rose and we have come to worship Him.’

News of these travellers and their questions reached King Herod.

4. (Picture: Herod)

King Herod was the king of the Jews.

He wasn’t a Jew at all.

He’d been placed in power by the Romans.

He was a cruel king who was constantly on guard against anyone who might take his kingdom from him.

He even had his own sons executed because he thought they were a threat. *(This sentence is optional depending on your age group.)*

When King Herod heard about the birth of a new king he was disturbed.

5. (Picture: Herod and the Chief Priests and Scribes)

Herod called together all the Jewish Chief Priests and teachers of the law.

He asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

The priests and scribes told him,

‘The prophet Micah wrote that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.’

6. (Picture: Herod and the Wise Men)

Herod called for a secret meeting with the Wise Men.

He asked them the exact time the star had appeared.

Herod sent the Wise Men to Bethlehem.

‘Go and search carefully for the young Child,

and when you have found him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship Him’

Herod claimed he desired to worship Jesus.

In fact, he wanted to kill Him.

7. (Picture: Wise Men Follow the Star)

After their audience with King Herod, the Wise men went on their way.

They did not promise to report back to him.

The star they had seen in the West went before them.

When the Wise Men saw the star they were overjoyed!

The star stopped over the place where the child was.

8. (Picture: Wise Men Worship Jesus)

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him.

They opened their treasures they had brought with them and

presented them to Jesus.
Gold, frankincense and myrrh.

9. (Picture: Wise Men Leaving)

In the night, the Wise Men were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod.
They returned to their country **by another way**.

Return to Scarlett and Henry in the living room.

Scarlett: God warned the Wise Men to go home **by another way**.
They listened to the warning and King Herod couldn't find baby Jesus.

Henry: Cool.
But what's that got to do with me and my plane?

Scarlett: The Holy Spirit warns you about things all the time.
He's like your control tower.
He will warn you to go **by another way**.
It's wise for you to listen to the Holy Spirit's plan
just like it's wise for a pilot to listen to the tower's plan.
Ask for clearance before you do stuff.

Henry: You make it sound easy. It's not.

Scarlett: It takes practice.
You have to listen for your call sign.
(In mock control tower voice)
Child of God Henry, do not unwrap your presents.

Henry: *(In mock pilot's voice)*
Negative tower, I want to see what I got.

Scarlett: *(In mock control tower voice)*
Child of God Henry.
Line up and wait.

Henry: *(In mock pilot's voice)*
Control, say again!

Scarlett: *(In mock control tower voice)*
Child of God Henry
Line up and wait.

Henry: *(In mock pilot's voice)*
Affirmative, Control.
Child of God Henry.
Lining up and waiting.

Scarlett: *(Throwing toy plane back to Henry)*
You got it!
Confirm and comply!

Henry: *(Henry catches the plane and picks up torn wrapping paper)*
Okay.
Thanks.
I just need help with one more thing.
Do you know where Mum keeps the sticky tape?

Ministry to the Children:

The Holy Spirit is your helper and guide! That's why Jesus sent Him. He is God's Spirit who comes to live inside your spirit as soon as you ask Jesus to come into your life. It's a good idea to ask Him for His help and guidance every morning. When you're heading for disaster, if you listen and obey, He will transmit supernatural instructions to go **by another way!**

It is the Holy Spirit who leads people to Jesus. He convicts people of their sin. *(John 16:8)* In other words He will show people when they have sin in their life. You may feel the Holy Spirit convicting you right now. You may be feeling a bit uncomfortable. The Holy Spirit is saying, 'You need to turn to Jesus right now. He died for your sins. He took your punishment for them, so you could be forgiven. Believe in Jesus! Ask Him to take away your sin. Come to Him today!' *(Alter Call)*

Extra Song:

- The Wise Men's Song (Radio Joy Christmas Song #7)

Memory Verse: Christmas Pass the Parcel

'But the Helper, the Holy spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I have said to you.' John 14:26

You will need:

- Christmas music to stop and start

- Each word of the Memory Verse and its Bible reference written on separate pieces of paper (34 if you use the above version which means most children will get a turn)
- Same number of candy canes or other small Christmas treat
- A star ornament or tree topper for the very first wrapping (the prize)
- On the other side of the paper write a funny instruction taken from the story.
Here's some ideas:
 - *baa like a sheep
 - *make a face like a shepherd seeing an angel
 - *do five star jumps
 - *sing the two lines of a Christmas Carol
 - * say 'We saw His star when it rose and we have come to worship Him'
five times very fast
- Christmas wrapping paper and sticky tape

What to do:

- Wrap the star first. It's the final prize in the Christmas Pass the Parcel game
- After that, wrap the treat and a word of the Memory Verse in Christmas paper, layer upon layer
- Seat the children in a circle
- Play the Christmas music and pass the Christmas parcel around the circle
- Stop suddenly
- The last person to hold the parcel may take off one layer of paper, read the instruction and follow it and then hold onto the word of the Memory Verse
- If the music stops on a child who has already had a turn, restart the music so all the children have a turn, or pass it to the child to the left who has not yet had a turn
- When all the words have been found, leaders and children work together to put the words in the correct order to make the Memory Verse
- Say the verse aloud together!

Game: Christmas Balloon Tennis

What to do:

- Blow up red and green balloons
- Attach extra-large paddle pop sticks, or wooden rulers, to Christmas paper plates to make 'paddles' or bats
- Create a finish line with masking tape or chalk at the end of the room or play area
- Children hit the blown-up balloons trying to cross the finish line.
- This game can be played in teams!

Craft: Christmas Stars

There's lots of Christmas Star ornaments your children can make. You'll find the templates and directions on the internet.

- Stained glass stars
- Paddle pop stick stars
- Yarn wrapped star ornaments
- Christmas beaded stars