




Teacher notes

Books: Pictures of quiz and discussion.

Reflection Area activity idea:

   **Fruits from the Roots**   

THE PERSEVERANCE TRACK

 Make a display of a racetrack. Children write or draw a picture on a small piece of paper of themselves practising a skill that needs **perseverance**. (This could be an educational or personal target.) 


(A3 poster rather than display that children can add to over the term).

Monday 14th February




Sit down calmly,
ready for our
class worship
session...

This half term's Christian value is:



PERSEVERANCE



**'I can do all things
through Him who
strengthens me.'**

Philippians 4.13

The graphic features a teal background with a white turtle icon at the top. Below it, the word 'PERSEVERANCE' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. A central photograph shows two young boys from behind, walking on a dirt path through a sun-dappled forest. They are wearing backpacks; the boy on the right has a blue backpack with a cartoon character. Below the photo is a white speech bubble containing the quote 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.' in teal text. At the bottom right, the reference 'Philippians 4.13' is written in a small, white, sans-serif font.

Monday 14th February

Greeting

Light your class worship candle.



We have gathered in the name of
God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
to worship together,
and think about our value

Perseverance

Engage

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterwards, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"

"In the town of Bethlehem in Judea," they answered. "For this is what the prophet wrote: 'Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah; for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel.'"

So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: "Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him."

And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

Matthew 2:1-12

Respond

Split into teams, ready for the quiz!

Where was Jesus born?

Who was King at the time?

Where did the Magi come from?

How did they know about the birth of the new King?

What did Herod do when he heard about the new King?

Where did the Magi find the baby Jesus?

What did they give as their gifts?

What did the Magi do after their visit to Jesus?

Take pictures of quiz and teamwork.

Tuesday 15th February



Sit down calmly,
ready for our
class worship
session...

Children will need
spiritual journals

Engage

Introduction to Epiphany

The word Epiphany means 'to show', 'to make known', or 'to reveal'. The feast of Epiphany, celebrated on 6th January, 12 days after Christmas, commemorates the mysterious visitors who came to the Christ child. The account of the Magi (wise men, kings or astrologers) only appears in Matthew's gospel (Chapter 2:1-12) and there is no record of how many of them there were. The visitors bought gifts which symbolised Jesus' identity: precious gold, linked with kingship; a frankincense resin, linked with divinity and holiness and myrrh, another resin with a bitter perfume, associated with suffering and mourning. The season of Epiphany lasts for five Sundays and the colours are white and gold.

Engage



Learning

The reason that the Church celebrates Epiphany 12 days after Christmas is because historians believe that Jesus, though still living in Bethlehem, may have been one or two years old before the Magi came to visit. The wise men are such mysterious characters that lots of stories have sprung up about them as poets, artists and storytellers have tried to imagine who they were and where they came from.

One such poet was Charles Williams. His poem is called *Kings Came Riding*.

KINGS CAME RIDING

Kings came riding,
One, two, and three,
Over the desert
And over the sea.

One in a ship
With a silver mast;
The fishermen wondered
As he went past.

One on a horse
With saddle of gold;
The children came running
To behold.

One came walking,
Over the sand,
With a casket of treasure
Held in his hand.

All the people
Said "Where go they?"
But the kings went forward
All through the day.

Night came on
As those kings went by;
They shone like the gleaming
Stars in the sky.

© Charles Williams, taken from *Modern Verse for Little Children*, publ. OUP



Respond

The wise men needed lots of determination and **perseverance** to follow a star for so many miles. They must have been convinced that the birth of Jesus was such an important event in history that it was worth all the hardships and risks.

The Magi knew, having been warned in a dream, that Herod wanted to harm the baby Jesus because he was jealous. It may be that they themselves were in danger, so they decided to travel home another way and not to return to Herod.

Discuss in pairs:

If you were taking a gift to Jesus as the wise men did, a gift that was a symbol to show that you knew what his life on earth would be like, what would you take?

Take pictures of discussion

Sending

An Epiphany Blessing

The following blessing is often used in churches at Christmas time and at Epiphany.

AN EPIPHANY BLESSING

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the **perseverance** of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Epiphanytide and always.
Amen

