Talk About It:

- What is the longest trip you've ever taken?
- What special gifts have you given to other people?

Read About It:

This story is from Matthew 2:1-12*:

Far away in the east lived very smart men who studied lots of things. One thing they studied was the stars, and that was how they noticed a new star in the sky, one they had never seen before. The wise men knew the star meant that a special child had been born—a child who would be a king. So, they got on their camels and followed the star.

The wise men traveled for a long time and finally reached Jerusalem where they went to see King Herod. King Herod wasn't very nice, and he was jealous when he heard about a child who was born to be a king. Herod was the king, and he did not want anyone to take that away from him. So, he told the wise men to let him know when they found the baby, so he could worship Jesus, too. But King Herod didn't really want to worship Jesus. He wanted to find Jesus so he could stop him from becoming king.

Well, the wise men left and went to Bethlehem. When they found Jesus and his mother, Mary, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they gave him three very special gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Those were expensive gifts fit for a king! The wise men knew that Jesus came to save us.

Then God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to mean King Herod. So, they went home a different way, and King Herod never found out where Jesus was.

- The wise men studied to learn about many things, including about God's promised Savior. How can you learn more about Jesus?
- The wise men gave Jesus three special gifts. What gifts would you like to give to Jesus?
- How do you think the wise men felt when they finally found Jesus?

*adapted from Hands-On Bible Curriculum, Group Publishing

Sing About It:

The wise men traveled very far to find Jesus and worship him. This Christmas carol reminds us all to joyfully worship Jesus. Sing along with it on YouTube:

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Lifetree Kids, Songs of the Christmas Story, Group Publishing)

Think About It:

- The wise men went on a long journey to find Jesus and had to deal with King Herod along the way. But once they found Jesus, they gave him special gifts and worshiped him.
 - King Herod was jealous of baby Jesus, who the wise men said would one day be a king. His jealousy made him angry and mean. Why should we be careful about becoming jealous of other people?
 - Why do you think God told the wise men to go home using a different road?
 - How do you think Mary felt when the wise men came to worship her baby?

Make It:

This week, add three wise men and a camel to your nativity scene. Use crayons or markers to color them. Cut them out, then glue them onto the same paper with the other figures to complete your nativity scene.

Do It:

The wise men searched for Jesus to worship him and give him special gifts. We can find ways to worship Jesus, too:

- Write a poem or prayer to Jesus to show your love for him.
- Create a dance to a special worship song as a way to worship Jesus. Here's a song to get you started: Doxology [LifeTree Kids, Cross Culture Thailand VBS, Group Publishing]
- Draw or paint a picture that shows how much you love Jesus.

Pray About It:

Thank God for the wonderful gift of Jesus, for Christmastime, and for all the amazing gifts God has given us.

Memorize It:

She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us. Matthew 1:23

Nativity Craft - Wise men, camel

