

Epiphany Blessing

Choose four children to be the readers and have them stand at each of the four corners of the room. Show them their lines and practice reading with them. Distribute copies of the words to “We Three Kings” to the group. Direct the rest of the group to move to each corner of the room as the blessing is read.

Leader: Let us begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross. (*All make Sign of the Cross.*) Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God. (*Allow about 10 seconds of silence.*)

Leader: It is the time of Epiphany. We remember the Three Kings who followed a star to find the new King, Jesus. Listen again to the words of Isaiah:

“Great caravans of camels will come,
from Midian and Ephah.
They will come from Sheba, bringing
gold and incense.
People will tell the good news of what
the Lord has done!”

(*Isaiah 60:6*)

Lead the children in singing the chorus of “We Three Kings.”

Leader: Marking the front door of a house is a custom that many people follow at Epiphany. We will mark our door today. As we mark the door of our room, let us remember the Three Kings, who set out on a long journey to find a new King, Jesus. Tradition tells us their names were Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. So we place their initials on the doorway to bless all who enter this room.

Mark the doorway or write the blessing formula on the board, as follows: first two digits of the year + C + M + B + last two digits of the new year. As you write, explain that the C stands for Caspar, the M for Melchior, and the B for Balthazar, the traditional names of the Three Kings. Then move the group to the first corner of the room.

Reader 1: Lord God, fill this room with kindness for one another.

All: Help us to seek Jesus our King always.
(*Group moves to the second corner*)

Reader 2: Bless every corner of our world with safety, peace, and love.

All: Help us to seek Jesus our King always.
(*Group moves to the third corner*)

Reader 3: Teach us to welcome everyone and fill our hearts with Christmas joy.

All: Help us to seek Jesus our King always.
(*Group moves to the fourth corner*)

Reader 4: Teach us to respect other and be open to adventures and surprises.

All: Help us to seek Jesus our King always.
(*Group moves to the third corner*)

Leader: During this year of 20__ (name the year), may the Lord bless you and keep you. May God’s face shine upon you and bring you peace.

All: Amen.

This prayer service is taken from the Christmas/Epiphany chapter of the Grade 3 Teaching Guide in the *Discover! Finding Faith in Life* program.