



THEY LIVE SO FAR AWAY... HOW CAN WE TELL THEM?

Slide 1

Do you know what we did when our little girl was born? ... Let me tell you.

I immediately Slide 2 called the grandfathers, the grandmothers, the whole family because everyone Slide 3 was impatiently awaiting the birth, and then Slide 4 we wrote cute little cards, and sent Slide 5 photos. In short, we were so overjoyed that we just had to tell everyone about it. We told all our friends: Slide 6

- Just come and see how cute she is!

But back to Slide 7 the days of Jesus. There was neither Post Office nor telephone, let alone the Internet. So Slide 8 how was God going to get people who were waiting for the promised Savior to come and see and just how was He going to announce to those who lived on the other side of the world that Jesus was born? Would He send them Slide 9 an angel like he did to warn the shepherds?

Well, this is what we are going to find out in the story that you can find it Slide 10 at the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew.

Ah! The question of the day: Slide 11 why are these men making such a long trip?

Slide 12 HOW CAN WE FIND THE CHILD KING?

In a place, very, very far from Bethlehem, somewhere in the East, Slide 13 men heard that God had promised to send a savior and they believed it with all their hearts. These men, called Magi, were highly educated scholars. They studied the planets.

Slide 14 One night, whilst watching the stars, something surprised them.

Slide 15 - Look at this star; it is shining more brightly than all the others!

- Yes, its brilliance was different to that of the other stars.

- What if this is the one we're waiting for?

- Certainly, Slide 16 it is a sign from God! He wants to tell us that the King of the Jews,

Slide 17 the promised savior, is born.

- We will go and see Him and Slide 18 worship Him.

- We will offer Him royal gifts."

Slide 19 They prepared their luggage and their treasures.

They loaded the camels Slide 20 and off they went on a journey.

Slide 21 So many kilometers to travel! 1000, **Slide 22** 1500 maybe even 2000 kilometers.

Slide 23 It was a trip that would take several months.

Slide 24 When they arrived in Jerusalem, they asked:

Slide 25 - Where is the King who has just been born, for we have seen his star appear in the East and we have come to worship Him.

Slide 26 A king? **Slide 27** How could a king be possibly born? Nobody knows of such an event, we haven't heard of a birth at the palace, but it 's all very odd and the arrival of these rich foreigners is very disturbing.

Slide 28 The news reached the ears of King Herod. He took the matter very seriously.

Slide 29 - How could he be a king? The king of the Jews! **Slide 30** But I am the king of the Jews! He was very confused and above all very angry. He summoned **Slide 31** the religious leaders and asked them

Slide 32 - Where is the promised savior to be born?

Slide 33 - In Bethlehem, the prophet said he would be born in Bethlehem!

He was absolutely furious upon hearing the news and **Slide 34** he secretly summoned the Magi and asked them exactly at what time the star appeared. Then he said to them:

Slide 35 - Go to Bethlehem, and try to get as much information as you can about the infant , then come back and tell me where he is, **Slide 36** I too will adore him.

Slide 37 At nightfall, the Magi headed for Bethlehem.

Slide 38 - Oh! Look!" said one of them, the star that is shining before us is the one that we saw in the East!

- Look, it's moving and **Slide 39** showing us the way. Without a doubt, God is leading us to His King. They followed the star and when **Slide 40** it came to a standstill above a small house, they knew that they had arrived. They entered **Slide 41** and found Mary and the baby Jesus. They fell to their knees, bowed down and worshipped Him.

They opened their precious gifts and took out their treasures of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They offered them to Jesus, the child King.

Slide 42 They then set off on their long journey back home. But that night, as they slept, God warned them:

Slide 43 - Do not go back to Herod but go back to your country by another way.

Slide 44 The caravan therefore, took another route.

That same night, **Slide 45** an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said to him: - Joseph, get up quickly, take the little child and his mother, and **Slide 46** flee to Egypt because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.

Slide 47 Without delay, Joseph left in the night with Mary and Jesus. They took refuge in this foreign country where they lived for some time in safety. **Slide 48** They came back later when God told them and it is in Nazareth that we will find them in our next stories.

Slide 49 **1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!**

Slide 50 *Imagine the children of Jerusalem who saw these wise men pass by.*

- *Oh! Look, they're not like us!*
- *Did you see their clothes?*
- *We don't understand what they are saying!*

Slide 51 - *They're weird!*

- *What are they doing here?*

Slide 52 - *They seem to be very rich ... and did you see that caravan of camels!*

- *And all this luggage! ...*
- *Yes, these foreigners really did come from afar!*

Slide 53 *Speaking of foreigners, do you think* **Slide 54** *God makes a difference between people?*

No! This story reminds us **Slide 55** *that He loves all men, all women, all children, regardless of their country, race, age, and that He will bring about circumstances in which everyone may come to know Him.*

Slide 56 *If you want to know Jesus better, then He will help you and guide you. It may not be with a star because I believe that you may not understand what He wants to say to you but He can speak by other means. He may ask you to listen to His voice,* **Slide 57** *read the Gospel, and pray. All these things will enable you to have a better knowledge of Him. We can now answer* **Slide 58** *the question of the day: Why did these men go on such a long journey? Simply because they wanted* **Slide 59** *to know Jesus, the promised savior and worship Him.*

Slide 60 **4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!**

Slide 61 *The Magi decoded the message that God was sending them and they believed it. Personally, I do not understand this language of the stars ; maybe you understand it. Not sure! Fortunately,* **Slide 62** *God speaks in different ways. But, do we hear His voice? Do we understand what He is saying to us? Do we have the eagerness of the Magi to know Jesus? Do we also have this eagerness to obey Him as Joseph and Mary did. God miraculously protected the little child but he asked* **Slide 63** *the parents to cooperate. They had to leave everything to flee to Egypt. Their protection required their obedience to God.*

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