

THE WISE MEN MATTHEW 2:1-12

In a land far away, God sent the news of the birth of Jesus. He did not send His angels, but He sent a special star to lead them to Jesus. The wise men packed up for the trip and took presents for Jesus with them.

When they came to Jerusalem, the capitol city, nobody had heard about the baby Jesus. King Herod was troubled about the news of a baby king. He thought that the child who was born would grow up and take his place. He did not know that Jesus came as a King of heaven. He asked the wise men to find Jesus and come back to tell him where He was so he could worship Him. But Herod had plans to kill the baby Jesus. As the wise men started out to Bethlehem, the star went ahead of them and stopped at the place where Jesus was. They went into the house and sure enough there was Jesus with Mary, His mother. They were very happy. They fell down and worshipped the child and then they opened the presents that they had brought with them. These presents showed how much they thought of Jesus. They loved Him more than all other things.

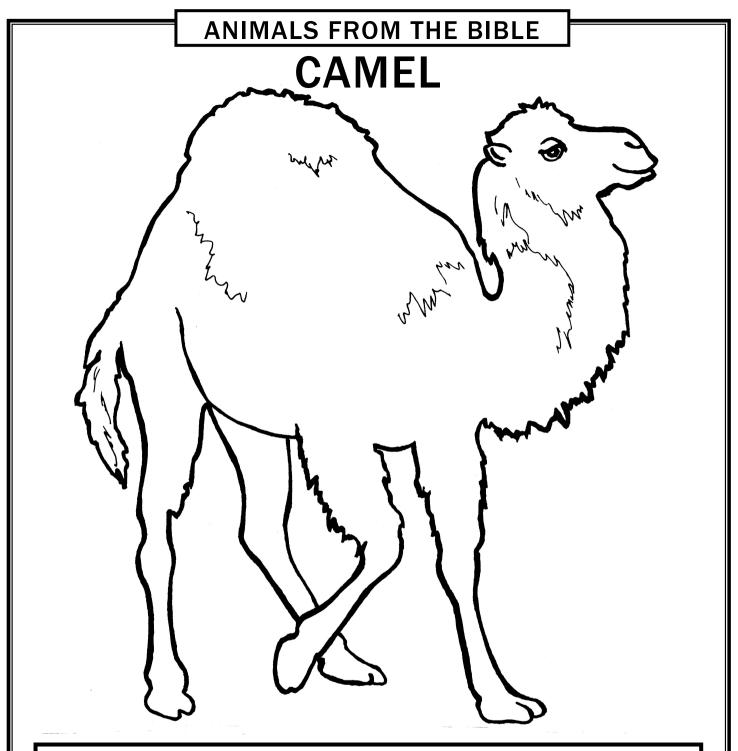
The wise men were told in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home another way.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, we know that you were born to save us and take us to heaven. You are the best gift sent from heaven. You are the best gift sent from God. We have gifts at Christmas time to remind us that Jesus is the greatest gift to us. Amen

Bible passage for older children to memorize: JOHN 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."



When crossing the desert, many people rode on camels. These sturdy animals can go long distances without drinking since they store water in their bodies. They are very sure-footed on soft desert sand. They are called the *"ship of the desert."*

The wise men who visited Jesus rode on camels to Jerusalem.

