

## People on the move

An EMBRACE NI  
resource for young people  
at Advent

### A Bible study on migration/refugees based on Christmas and Epiphany passages

For younger people aged 8-12 Time: 30-40 mins

#### Bible ref: The Story of Christmas & Epiphany (Matthew chapter 2 verses 1-23)

1. When Jesus was born, a special star appeared in the sky. Some wise men that lived in the East saw the star and knew it was a sign that a new king had been born. Following the star they arrived in Jerusalem and went to see King Herod. 'We know a baby king has been born,' they said, 'can you tell us where he is?'



2. Now this worried King Herod because he did not want anyone else to be called a king only him. He gathered together all his wise priests and scribes to find out where this king should be born. They told him that the prophet Micah<sup>1</sup> had said that Bethlehem was to be the place. 'Go to Bethlehem and find him,' he said to the wise men, 'and then tell me where he is so I can go too.'



3. The wise men followed the star right to the place where Jesus was. They were very happy and offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the child.

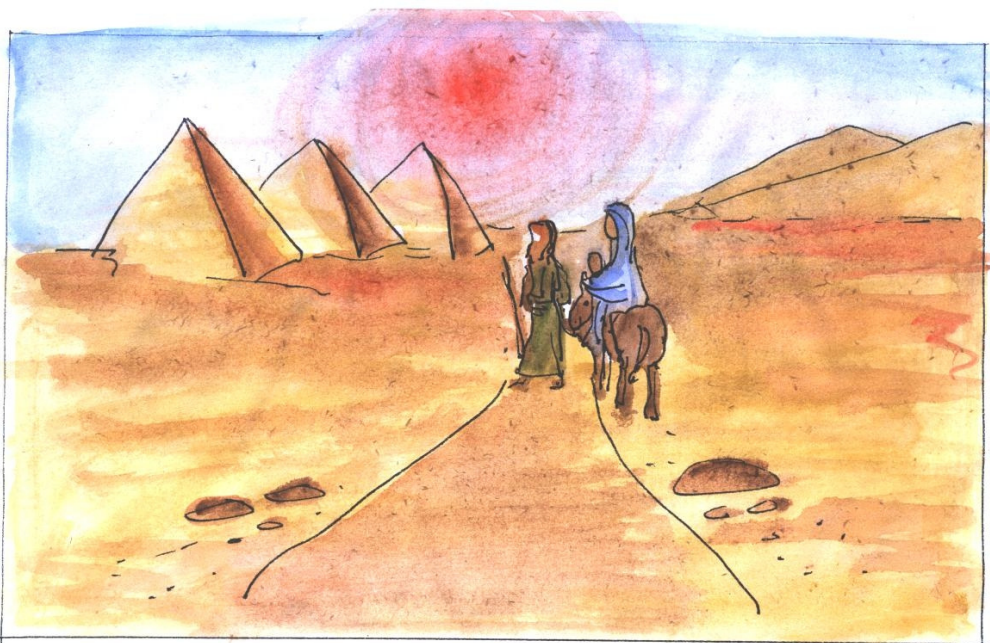


4. God knew that King Herod did not want anyone else to be king so he warned the wise men in a dream not to return to Herod but to go back home a different way. King Herod was in a rage. He wanted to find the baby king and kill him.



<sup>1</sup> Micah 5v 1

5. God knew what Herod was thinking and sent an angel to warn Joseph to escape into Egypt. So Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus went to Egypt. When Herod died and it was safe to go home again, Joseph, Mary and Jesus returned to Nazareth.



Mary, Joseph and Jesus - Refugees in Egypt

#### Activities:

- Read the story and talk about the characters in the story; pictures.
- Talk about where we come from and where the wise men came from in relation to Israel - East, West, North or South.
- Talk about 'migration' and the reasons why people choose to visit/move from one country to another (like the wise men).
- Think about Jesus and his family - Jews from Nazareth; and why they were required to travel to Bethlehem - Roman census; taxes. Do we know anything more about their social background from this or any other Christmas stories?
- Talk about the reasons people may be forced to leave one place for another like Jesus' family escaping to Egypt from King Herod and introduce/talk about the term 'refugee' and the process of seeking asylum.
- Think of ways you could welcome and support migrants; refugees and people seeking asylum. There are some ideas on the EMBRACE website.

#### Further resources; activities

- Stepping out - downloadable from [http://www.creni.org/contents/resources/stepping\\_out](http://www.creni.org/contents/resources/stepping_out) and also [http://puppetwoman.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&Itemid=26](http://puppetwoman.org/index.php?option=com_docman&Itemid=26)  
See Events: Festivals of Light - Christmas & Diwali; Christmas & Hanukkah

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For more resources for  
adults and children see  
the EMBRACE website:

[www.embraceni.org](http://www.embraceni.org)



EMBRACE NI  
12 - 24 University Avenue  
Belfast, BT7 1GY  
Tel: 0796 9921 328  
Email: [info@embraceni.org](mailto:info@embraceni.org)