

Station Two – A King's city

Introduction



'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel' Matthew 2:6

Prophecies are messages from God with promises about the future. The wise men knew this prophecy from the writings of the prophet Micah. When they saw the new star, they therefore travelled to Bethlehem to find Jesus. They went to Herod's palace first looking for the new king, but Jesus was going to be a different kind of king, and Herod knew nothing about him.

Craft preparation

You can cut crown designs out of gold or silver card, or buy them ready made

- Card crown
- Paper clips
- Self adhesive jewels

[Crowns from Baker Ross](#)
[Self adhesive jewels from Baker Ross](#)

Craft Instructions

As you decorate your crown with the jewels wonder together about why Jesus is called a 'king'.
 Roll the crown around your head and pin it with the paperclip so that it fits. The only crown that Jesus wore was made from thorns, and soldiers used it to mock him before they killed him. He definitely was a different kind of king!

Scene setting

Required

- Introduction sheet
- Craft instructions
- Story – printed/videoed or read in person

Optional

- Model village of Bethlehem with in 2D or 3D with twinkling lights*
- 'Gaze in wonder' sheet from extra resources

Reflection questions

- Use the words of 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' to think about what it was like when Jesus was born.
- Do you think the words are accurate?
- Do you think they are helpful?
- If you were writing a carol what would you include?

Soundtrack

Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

Story

How still we see thee lie

Extra ideas

Display a picture of the crown of thorns that Jesus wore at his crucifixion

You could do a 'gold treasure hunt' around the church grounds. Write the number 1,2 or 3 on gold coins and hide them around the church and/or graveyard. Give everyone the opportunity to find three gold coins which they can keep/eat only if they have all three numbers. (n.b. some might go missing, so have some spares put to one side just in case, and maybe something dairy free for allergy sufferers). You could suspend from the ceiling using fishing wire or display them on a tree if you do not have the space for a wide ranging treasure hunt

*Creating a model village might be a great way of getting members of the congregation involved. It could be a silhouette or a cityscape with holes that let light through, or it could be little model houses that people have made during lockdown.