

TEACHER'S NOTES

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Chapter 11	Three wise men arrive
Lesson 3	A poor boy's gift

AIMS

1. The children will learn more about the wise men.
2. They will learn about a little boy's special gift to Baby Jesus.

STEP 1

Discuss Benediction. Ask the children what struck them the most about it (e.g. the incense - the way it rose up to Heaven, the way it smelled; the priest's special vestment, called a "cope"; the monstrance; etc.).

Or, if you took the children to visit the tabernacle, discuss this experience with them. If you did not make a class visit, encourage to go with their parents. Remind them that Jesus is waiting in the Blessed Sacrament for His children to visit Him.

STEP 2

Have the children study the picture *Adoration of the Magi* by Fra Angelico in their packs. Ask them the following questions:

1. What is the setting for this painting? (Outside the stable at Bethlehem)
2. Who is in the doorway of the stable? (Mary and Baby Jesus)
3. How could you tell it was them? (They had halos)
4. Who else has a halo, to the right of Mary? (Saint Joseph)
5. Who is kneeling before Mary and Joseph? (One of the wise men)
6. Where is his crown? (A man on the right is holding it)
7. Who is the man holding the crown? (Probably a servant)
8. Where is the wise man's gift? (The Christ Child is holding it in His left hand)
9. What is Jesus doing with His right hand? (Possibly blessing the wise man)
10. Can you point out the other two wise men? (One is talking to St Joseph, the other is to the left of the kneeling wise man)
11. Who do you think the other people are? (Servants or other worshippers)
12. Can you see animals in the background on the left? What are they? (horses or camels that the magi travelled with)
13. What is the background of the painting? (Bethlehem)

STEP 3

Discuss with the children how the Blessed Mother and St Joseph may have felt about this amazing visit. Remind the children that Mary and Joseph were humble people, yet now they were receiving visits from important people and magnificent gifts. They must have rejoiced to learn that others shared their knowledge that Jesus was the Saviour.

STEP 4

Ask the children to imagine what they could have given the Christ Child if they had been with the wise men. Would they sing a song, do a dance, play a tune. Discuss the possibilities and emphasise the need to give one's best to Jesus.

STEP 5

Explain that at Benediction we worship Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. There are special hymns and prayers sung and said at Benediction. Also, incense similar to frankincense is used to acknowledge that Our Lord is God, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Explain that Catholics some times put time aside to adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Get them to study the picture in their packs of the Host displayed for worship. Explain that when Jesus is exposed in a monstrance in this way we make a special genuflection.

Demonstrate going down on both knees and bowing to the children and get them to practice this

If it is not possible to attend Benediction or Exposition with the children, make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament.

STEP 6

Have the children complete the quiz in their packs.

STEP 7

Have the children practice questions 27 and 28 in their packs.

CONCLUDE

1. Have the children practice the Benediction prayers that are in their pack
2. Teach the children "We Three Kings from Orient are," *Adoremus hymnal*, #350."

PREVIEW

In the next lesson, we will learn more about the visit of the wise men, as well as about a poor boy and the gift he gave to baby Jesus.