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Inspire (for parents)

Recently my kids and I were talking about the ways we can give praise to God. We decided to share an attribute of God for each letter of the alphabet. As we drove across town, I began by suggesting “A for awesome.” “B—He’s big,” my daughter chimed in. “C—He cares for us,” my son said. Our praises soon became a fun game as we remembered the character of our God. Our time together praising the Lord through the alphabet became a sweet and teachable moment for all of us.

As we drove by a church, my daughter asked, “Mom, why do people build churches?” This was a great question. If we can praise God in the car with our families, why do we have churches? I told my daughter that going to church is one way God points people to Jesus.

My daughter’s question encouraged me to think about the many ways God points me to Jesus each day. I was reminded of the rich community that shares life with my family. Together we claim Bible promises, laugh, pray,

celebrate, and support each other through tough times. I realized God was using all these experiences as ways to point me to His Son.

As parents, we can help our children recognize the ways God leads us to Jesus and encourage them to point others to Him, whether that is through the faith community that surrounds us, or simply by praising the Lord through the alphabet.

by Allison Kenyon

Getting Started

Scripture: Matthew 2:1–12
(Magi Travel to Meet Jesus)

Main Point: God Points Us to Jesus

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God’s Word **before your children attend church**. Because God’s plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children’s faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

Equip (for parents)

The Magi followed the star to point them to Jesus. Scripture doesn’t tell us how they knew that a star in the sky foretold the birth of the one true King. Magi were often diviners, magicians, and astrologers who worked for royalty, much like the wise men described in Daniel. While it’s speculated that these particular magi learned about the prophecies of Jesus from exiled Jews living in their kingdoms, we really don’t know the source or the extent of their knowledge. We don’t even know how many came, what their names were, or if they came on their own accord or as representatives of their kings.

What we do know is that God wanted them to know that His Son, the true King, had been born. He went to great and extraordinary lengths to point them to Jesus. The Creator of the universe has always used the heavens to point man to Himself (Isaiah 40:26). He knew where in the sky these men were looking for truth. Willing to meet them right where they were, God placed a star to direct them to His Good News. Faithful to follow where the star pointed, the men left the comfort of their homes to cross the desert and present Jesus with extravagant gifts worthy of the King—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Though this great King presented Himself as a helpless baby, these wise men recognized and responded to Him by bowing in worship.

Throughout The Big God Story, we see that God is not only the God of the Jews, but also the God for all nations and all people! That’s the good news! Today God challenges us not to limit His gospel, but be bold in pointing others to Jesus.

REMEMBER VERSE

I can do everything, through Christ, who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

Support (for parents & kids)

> JUST FOR FUN take some time this week to praise through the alphabet with your family. Start with **A** and go around until each family member has shared an attribute of God, all the way through to the letter **Z**.

Together read **Matthew 2:1–12**. When you’re finished reading, ask your children why they think the magi came to visit Jesus. Talk about what the magi did when they saw Jesus. Ask your children what they would do or say if they saw Jesus. Remind them of all the attributes of God they listed earlier while praising through the alphabet, and tell them that would be a great way to worship Jesus too.

When you’re finished reading the passage and talking with your children, share with them that what they just heard is a part of The Big God Story in the Bible, and they’ll hear it in church this week. Close your time by praying and thanking God that He points us to Jesus, His one and only Son!