

Welcome to Sunday School at St. Tim's
January 6, 2008

Thank you for coming !

We are glad you joined us for our Gathering Service today.

During our Gathering Service,
you will learn about God, Jesus, and our church.
You will learn about why grown-ups do the things they do
each week during worship, and you will learn about
being a part of the congregation.
You will learn how you can share your gifts and talents,
and what your responsibilities are as a
full member of the St Tims church family.

Each week, we will try to follow this format:

**Sing-along with Linda
Welcome**

Opening Song "This is Where Children Belong"

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading—Matthew 2:1-12

Message—Seeking Jesus...

Offering (Song is Linda's choice)

Offering Prayer

Announcements

Blessing prayer

Closing Song "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

You might be asked to choose the songs, help collect the offering, read the Scriptures, lead a prayer, or light candles. We want you to feel like an important part of our Service!

Please share this bulletin with your family so everyone can find out what you learned about today!

The lesson for today is:
Seeking Jesus...

Today is the first day AND the first Sunday in Epiphany. Today is often called "Three Kings Day" as well. I think that it makes more sense to call it the first day of Epiphany though, because we don't know for sure how many people came looking for Jesus, and we don't know for sure if they were kings. The story in the book of Matthew calls them "magi" which can mean "astrologers", "wise men", "priests", or "magicians".

Some things that I think are important in this story, are that
1) Matthew wanted to show that Jesus was for EVERYONE— from nearby and far-away, for poor people and for rich people, for ordinary people and for people with lots of education. This is a wonderful reminder for all of us— no matter who we are, we can find Jesus.

2) Matthew wanted to show that seeking Jesus might take some time, that the journey may be long and rough, but that it is worth it in the end. This is another great reminder for us—no matter where we are on our faith journeys, if we keep looking, we can find Jesus.

And 3) Matthew wanted to show that Jesus set a wonderful example for the Jewish people (and for us, too). By calling him the "King of the Jews", Matthew was telling the actual king (King Herod) that he wasn't doing such a good job as king, and that Jesus would be a better leader of the Jewish people in God's kingdom. This is also a good reminder for us that the lessons Jesus taught, and the way he lived his life are much better examples than a lot of famous or important people give us these days.

There is a neat bumper sticker that I sometimes see. It says "Wise men seek him still.." I think that it means that we should all keep looking for Jesus, and we should all keep following his example in everything we do each day!