

# Star

**Memory Verse:** . . . wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' Matthew 2:1-2



**Study Plan:** The purpose of studying this badge is to understand what Epiphany is and why it is such an important event.

To earn the Star Badge, you will need to do the following:



**Discern** **Read the story of Epiphany.** You can find it in your Bible in Matthew 2: 1-12. Leader's initials: \_\_\_\_\_

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, three wise men from the East came to Jerusalem. They wanted to find out where Jesus had been born, so they went to ask King Herod. "We have followed a star from the East to worship the child who was born king of the Jews. Where was he born? Tell us."*



Herod called together the priests and asked them where the child was to be born. "In Bethlehem," they told him. So Herod told the wise men, "It must have been in Bethlehem. Go, and when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can also go to worship him."

The wise men thanked Herod. They started out toward Bethlehem; the star that they had seen went ahead of them until it came to the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overjoyed.

They saw Jesus and Mary, his mother, and presented their gifts: gold and frankincense and myrrh. Through a dream they were warned not to go back and tell Herod where Jesus was, so they took another route to return home.



**Discuss** Epiphany is important because it is the first time Jesus appeared to people outside of Israel. This shows us that God's love is for all the world. We celebrate Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The color for that day is white. The season of Epiphany is from January 6<sup>th</sup> until Ash Wednesday. The color for the remainder of the season is green.

Why is Epiphany important? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What color do we use for Feast of Epiphany? \_\_\_\_\_

The season of Epiphany Season starts on \_\_\_\_\_ and ends on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The color of the season is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



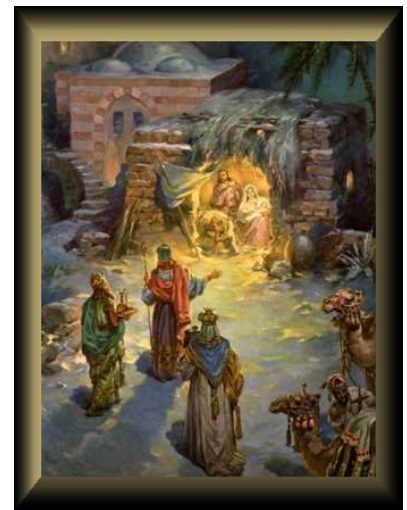
**Do It!** Choose two of the following activities. Leader's initials: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Sing the carol, "We Three Kings", Hymn 128.

Then discuss the carol with your group. In the carol, why does the wise man bring gold to Jesus? Frankincense was burned as incense in religious ceremonies, as an offering to God. Why do you think the wise men gave this gift to Jesus? Myrrh was used on people's bodies when they died. Why do you think the wise men gave myrrh to Jesus?



❖ In some cultures people exchange gifts on the Feast of Epiphany, January 6. Start a tradition among your friends and/or family and "exchange gifts" by doing something special for each other on that day. For example, offer to do an extra chore or make a special treat for a brother, sister, parent or friend. Or do something special for a charity, soup kitchen or senior home in the new year.





❖ Create an Epiphany craft, such as a diorama of the wise men's visit to the manger; a mobile of all the main characters from the Epiphany story; or design a "3 Kings" banner. (see Leader's List).

❖ Visit a local planetarium and learn about the stars. Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles or many local colleges offer programs.



❖ Ask your priest if you can help at the Epiphany service by being a reader, an usher, an acolyte, or helping to collect the offering.

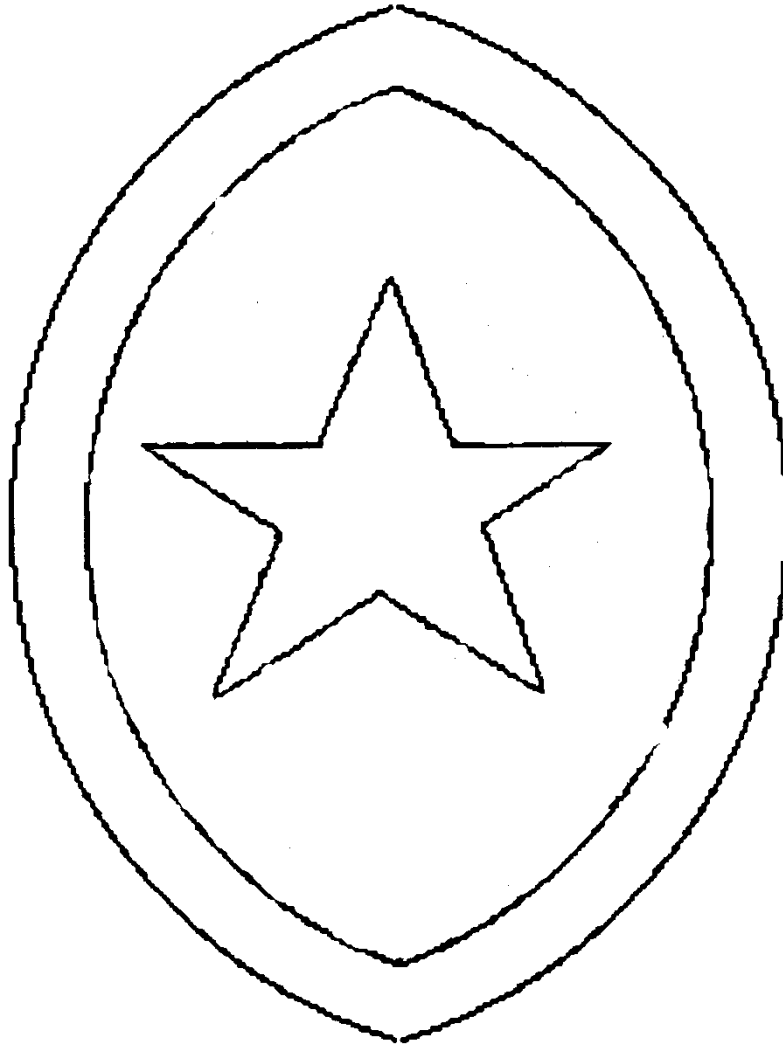
### Challenge Yourself!

**Aha!**

An epiphany is a **manifestation**. Manifestation is a big word which means seeing or understanding something clearly or differently for the first time. Think about a time this has happened to you. Talk or write about it.

Host a "Twelfth Night" party with your GFS group.

Color this badge for your notebook.



## Leader's List

### **Books** about the Epiphany Season:

*The Fourth Wiseman* (Based on the story by Henry Van Dyke) retold by Susan Summers –  
Dial Books for Young Readers

### **Planetariums:**

Griffith Observatory: <http://www.griffithobs.org/>

Planetariums in the Los Angeles, Orange County & Inland Empire areas (a large list of choices): <http://www.smc.edu/planetarium/planetaria.html>

### **Critics' Choice:**

Watch for a performance of "Amahl and the Night Visitors" in your area.

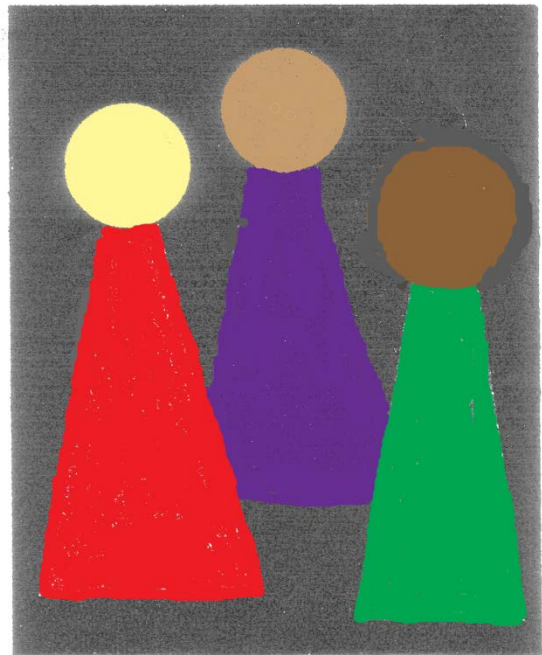
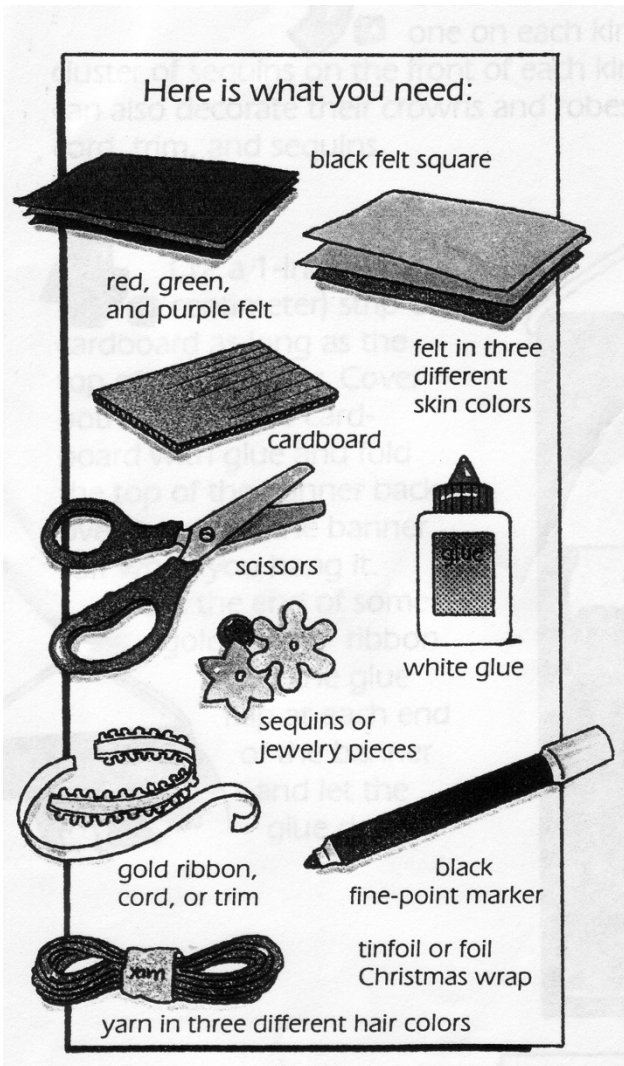
This is a light opera based on the events of the Epiphany and would make a fabulous outing for your group.

# Three Kings Banner

Three wise men came to visit the Baby Jesus, bringing Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Here is what you do:

**Step 1.** Cut tall triangles from red, green, and purple felt to make the bodies of the three kings. Cut a head for each king from felt of a different skin shade. Arrange them on the black felt with the triangles slightly overlapping each other.



**Step 2,** Draw a face on each king with a black marker. Cut up bits of yarn for the hair and beards, and glue them in place.

**Step 3.** Cut crowns from foil and glue one on each king.

Glue a jewel or cluster of sequins on the front of each king for a gift. You can also decorate their crowns and robes with gold ribbon, cord, trim, and sequins.



**Step 4.** Cut a 1 inch (2.5 centimeter) strip of cardboard a long as the top of your banner. Cover both sides of the cardboard with glue and fold the top of the banner back over it to keep the banner stiff when you hang it. Tuck the end of some gold cord or ribbon under the glue flap at each end of the banner and let the glue dry.

