

# Epiphany

**Epiphany is a Greek word** that means "showing forth." The date of its celebration is January 6th. It was originally concerned with the commemoration of the Baptism of Christ and later became associated with the Magi. Today it is often thought of as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.

## How to Use this Parent Page

With your child, begin by looking together at the illustration below and listening as your child recalls—and in a sense *relives*—the experience of today's lesson. Invite your child to respond to the drawing. You might say, for example:

- I wonder what you can tell me about this picture?
- I wonder what this picture has to do with today's story?

Just listen. This is *not* a time to quiz children on what they may or may not recall about the lesson, but to be quietly present as they share their own experience. This will be different for each child—one may retell much of the presentation, another recall a single moment that had meaning, and yet another talk about his or her own creative response. Again, your role is not to correct or supplement what your child tells you, but simply to *listen* in a supportive way. You are supporting the formation of young—some-

times very young—theologians.

Then, if you wish, you can read with (or to) your child the condensed version of today's presentation offered below. If you retell the presentation, you will need:

- five candles (three purple, one pink and one white, or four blue and one white, depending on your church's custom)
- Nativity figures of Jesus, the manger, Mary, Joseph, donkey, sheep, shepherd and wise men
- *optional:* candle snuffer
- *optional:* You might like to use the home version of the Godly Play Advent materials, called "Miniature Advent," available from Godly Play Resources. (To order, call 1-800-445-4390 or visit [www.godlyplay.com](http://www.godlyplay.com).)

Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying "Amen."

## The Presentation

On Epiphany we remember the three kings. They followed the star all the way to Bethlehem, but they came from so far away that they got there after the baby was born. Every year they arrive on January 6th, but we remember them at Christmas anyway, because, like us, they too are on the way to Bethlehem.

Here is the candle of the prophets. (*Light the candle for Advent I.*) This is the candle of the Holy Family. (*Light the candle for Advent II.*) Here is the candle of the shepherds. (*Light the candle for Advent III.*) Here is the candle of the wise men. (*Light the candle for Advent IV.*) Here is the Christ candle. (*Light the white candle.*) Let's enjoy the light.

(*Indicate again the candle of the wise men.*) The wise men brought gifts to the Christ child. They brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. They brought the gold to give to a king, but because it was a different kind of king, they also brought frankincense. Frankincense is something that was used for worship, and it is still used sometimes today. Frankincense comes from a tree. When it burns, the smoke is