

## Rhythms of Grace • Epiphany Year 2

**Theme:** Epiphany-The Season of Light

**Scripture:** Matthew 2: 1-11

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Volunteer Roles:

**Facilitator** \_\_\_\_\_

**Storyteller** \_\_\_\_\_

**Celebrant** \_\_\_\_\_

**Center Leader** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guide** \_\_\_\_\_

## Items Needed for Program

**Gathering:** yellow construction paper stars (big enough to write on), tape

**Storytelling:** felt board figures of 3 Magi, a camel, three gifts, star, Mary, Joseph, young Jesus ( see patterns in Appendix), felt board, cue card that reads “Jesus is the Light of the World,” one flashlight for each child.

### **Response Activities:**

**Beeswax candles-** beeswax sheets and wicks (available at [www.candlewic.com](http://www.candlewic.com)), sequins to press into wax

**Follow the Light-** one flashlight, 6 construction paper stars cut out in various colors

**Jesus Glitter pictures-** 5X7 photocopies of picture of Jesus (see Resources), gold glitter, glue or decoupage medium, paper mats for 5X7

**Flour Dough Stars-** Play-do, rolling pins, star cookie cutters, recipe (see resources)

**Regathering:** Pass the Light game: flashlight (from Storytelling), recording of “*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*,” in *The Hymnal*, 1982 # 490. There are several good renditions on Youtube.com, Elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist- Book 1)

**Eucharist:** altar table and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth), Eucharistic Prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), Gather our Hearts song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99)

**Dismissal:** *Jesus Loves Me* with hand motions

## Session Plan • Epiphany • Year 2

**Gathering:** As participants gather, they will write their name on a yellow star and tape it on the wall near the story telling area.

**Storytelling:** With Jesus doll and Bible, all will gather for a story about Epiphany, the Season of Light using congregational participation, props and oral refrain.

### **Response Activities:**

**Beeswax candles-** Participants will make candles by placing a length of wick at one end of the beeswax sheet and, using gentle, even pressure, roll the wax into a candle shape. Sequins or other decorative items can be gently pressed into the sides of the rolled candle.

Follow the Light- Leader stands on one star and shines the flashlight making a path to another colored star. Participant follows the beam of light to the star and identifies the color. Leader repeats process to all the stars.

**Jesus Glitter Pictures-** Using the 5X7 photocopies provided (see resources) invite participants to use a light coating of glue or decoupage medium to cover photo and then sprinkle with gold glitter. Place in 5X7 mat.

**Flour dough Stars-** Roll out dough and use star cookie cutters to make Epiphany stars. Add a scent- vanilla, almond or lemon extract- to enhance the sensory experience. (see resources for recipe)

**Regathering:** In a circle, play a recording of “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” and pass the flashlight around. When the music stops, intermittently, the person holding the flashlight says his or her name and “I am a Child of the Light!” Singing *Jesu, Jesu*, leader gives participants an Eucharist element and participant brings it to the celebrant then sits down in the circle around the Eucharistic table.

### **Eucharist:** Sing: *Gather our Hearts*

Gather our Hearts, oh God.  
Gather our thoughts, oh God  
Bring us together around you

### **Celebration of the Eucharist**

**Dismissal:** All sing and sign Jesus Loves Me,  
Celebrant provides a blessing:  
Celebrant: “Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.”  
Participant: “Thanks be to God!”

## Story Telling • Epiphany • Year 2

*Place the Bible, Jesus doll, felt figures with board, cue cards, and flashlights by the Storyteller*

Our story today is from our Bible (*show Bible*), our book that tells the stories of God and God's people, of Jesus (*show Jesus doll*), God's son, and of how much God loves us (*place hands over heart*).

In this story, I will need your help. Each one of you will use this- a flashlight – to help with the story. (*hand out the flashlights and let them experiment with them for a minute. Then say, "for now, flashlights in your laps."*)

Our story today takes place not too long after Jesus was born in Bethlehem. In this story, Jesus and his family receive some very special visitors who bring gifts for Jesus. The visitors are Magi- Wise Men- who traveled a long, long way to see Jesus. They found out about Jesus when a bright star appeared in the sky. The Wise Men had heard that a new king had been born- the King of the Jews- and they wanted to see him for themselves and to honor him with gifts. They knew that this boy Jesus was special- that he was going to be very powerful and that he would change the world. They called him, "The Light of the World."

Here is Jesus, his mother and father (*place felt figures on the board*.)

Every time that you hear me say Jesus' name in the story, I want you to shine your flashlights on Jesus and say, "Jesus is the Light of the World." Okay? Let's practice once. (*dim the lights in the story telling area and practice shining flashlights on the Jesus felt board figure and saying, "Jesus is the Light of the World," using the cue card.*)

Once upon a time, there was a very special baby born in a barn in Bethlehem. (*put young Jesus figure in the center of the board*) His name was **Jesus** (*Shine lights and shout, "Jesus is the Light of the World!"*) and his parents were Mary and Joseph. (*point to Mary and Joseph near Jesus on the board.*)

It was clear from the beginning that this baby was different. On the night that he was born, shepherds and angels came to see him and to sing songs about how special he was... **Jesus**, (*shine lights and shout, "Jesus is the Light of the World!"*) was going to do great things.

The Wise Men- the Magi- came to visit. (put them up with their gifts and camel)

They had traveled a long, long way to see this special baby named.... **Jesus**. (*shine lights and shout "Jesus is the Light of the World!"*)

The Magi had followed a very bright star (*add felt star at the top of the scene*) to where **Jesus** (*shine lights and shout "Jesus is the Light of the World!"*) was staying. That's how they knew how to find him.

As time went on, and he grew, **Jesus** (*shine lights and shout "Jesus is the Light of the World!"*) became a wonderful leader and showed us that God's way is the way of Love and Light. When we follow God and **Jesus** (*shine lights and shout "Jesus is the Light of the World!"*) and do the things that he taught us, we find that we, too, are filled with a feeling of peace and goodness and light. We become "Children of the Light." In this season called "Epiphany," we learn about the way of God that fills us with light, by following his Son, **Jesus**. (*shine lights and shout, Jesus is the Light of the World!"*)

Amen!

*Continue by explaining the activities*