



“We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”
— Matthew 2:2

Feast of the Epiphany Milestone Moment

Epiphany Day is celebrated on the 6th of January each year. Epiphany is one of the three principal and oldest festival days of the Christian church along with Easter and Christmas. The name Epiphany comes from the Greek *epiphaneia*, meaning either appearance or manifestation. The Christian holiday commemorates the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi.

The Magi, or three wise men, are traditionally known as Caspar of India, Melchior of Persia, and Balthasar of Arabia. The gifts of the Wise Men were not random. Each had a significant and spiritual meaning. Gold as a gift given to a king, frankincense (an incense) pointing to Jesus as a priest of God, and myrrh (a spice) used as an oil for anointing the dead.

Epiphany is celebrated around the world with special pastries, marking homes with a blessing, and worship with lighted candles. Children are given small gifts in their shoes in honor of the gifts to the baby Jesus. A marking of the home is written over the front door each year. The initials of the Magi (C, M, and B) are written. The initials also represent the Latin blessing *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* meaning “May Christ bless this house.” A cross is drawn between the initials symbolizing Christ. Example: 20+C+M+B+21

Christians, on this day, celebrate the coming of the light of the world as revealed in the Christ child. They bless their homes for the coming year to share the peace and hospitality of Christ with all who enter.

The opportunity for families and friends to gather together to celebrate Epiphany is a special time. This Feast of the Epiphany Milestone Moment has a simple five stage structure that includes naming, equipping, blessing, gifting, and reinforcing so that the Milestone Moment has a greater chance to take deeper root in lifelong faith formation.

Naming – Observing the Feast of the Epiphany encourages us to remember the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus and the opportunity to bless our homes for the Lord’s service during the coming year.

Equipping – Celebrating Epiphany Day with food, caring conversations, reading scripture, and praying nurtures our Christian faith and prepares us for the coming year.

Blessing – Offering an Epiphany Day blessing reminds us of Christ’s presence in our lives and of the importance of family and our homes as a place of faith, peace, and hospitality.

Gifting – Providing each person with the Epiphany gifting stone and/or placing three small gifts in the children’s shoes reinforces the memory of this special day.

Reinforcing – Light the Christ candle from your Advent wreath or a white candle during your time together. Light the candle again each of the Sundays during the Epiphany season as a reminder that our homes are a place where Christ is pleased to dwell.

Four Key Faith Practices

- Caring Conversations
- Devotions
- Service
- Rituals and Traditions



+ Feast of the Epiphany Milestone Moment

For a Small Group or Family Gathering



Growing People in Faith when at Home and Away

“and talk about them when you are at home and when away, when you lie down and when you rise.”

– Deuteronomy 6:7b

A follow-up for the Feast of the Epiphany Milestone Moment can be done with caring conversations to discuss how Christ’s light shines in our homes and how we share his peace and hospitality with others. We can think about how Christ’s coming has blessed us and pray for a heart of kindness and sharing throughout the year.

An important step after experiencing the Four Key Faith Practices in small groups or home setting is to bless and equip friends and families by using faith practices daily as an intentional step to encourage faith traditions in the home.

Suggested resources for continued caring conversations:

*[Taking Faith Home](#)
[Taking Faith Home Cards](#)
[For Everything A Season Book](#)*

*Additional Milestone Modules and Moments can be found at:
www.milestonesministry.org*



info@milestonesministry.org
304-300-0836

www.milestonesministry.org

At the heart of equipping people for their lifelong faith formation are the Four Key Faith Practices: Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals and Traditions. They provide an opportunity for people to learn, experience, and grow in their faith together. The outline below is also found on the next page to be used as a discussion guide handout to assist with the conversations.



As you gather together, begin by sharing a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your lives and then use the outline below to talk about faith and God’s presence in this moment.



Caring Conversations

Discuss these thoughts and questions:

- Have you celebrated the Epiphany in your home before? If so, describe what you did.
- The Wise Men were seekers of truth. What truths are you searching for?
- The Wise Men gave the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. What gifts would you give to Jesus?



Devotions

Read out loud Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

- What reasons could there be that "all Jerusalem" was frightened along with Herod at the news of the birth of the king of the Jews?
- The Wise Men followed a star and rode across half the known world to find and pay homage to Jesus. Where do you see Jesus in the world and in what ways do you pay him homage?



Service

Being kind and hospitable to others in your life is contagious. It is an attitude that can greatly influence others. Think of someone who would benefit from your hospitality. In what ways can you reach out to them with the spirit of the Epiphany?



Rituals and Traditions

The Feast of the Epiphany provides us the opportunity to be reminded of how we are blessed by God through Jesus. Light the Christ candle from your Advent wreath or a white candle. To make the occasion memorable, purchase or make a traditional King’s cake to serve after the meal and/or provide three small gifts in the shoes of your family and guests to remind them of the Magi’s gifts to the Christ child.

Finish the meal by praying together: *Come, Lord Jesus into our world and our lives so that your light can shine brightly through us. Amen.*

Then conclude with this Epiphany Day blessing: *May God bless our home with peace and hospitality through Jesus Christ.*



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Feast of the Epiphany Discussion Guide



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