

Discovering History Series

New Testament Tales for Little Ones

A Charlotte Mason Style History Curriculum for Early
Elementary Ages

by Sandi Queen

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Special thanks to Jeremiah Queen

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Dear Reader,

The popularity of our best-selling “Discovering Nature and Science” curriculum series for children caused us to take another look at the way we taught history.

Having always used the living book approach recommended by Charlotte Mason, we enjoyed the freedom that simple method gave us, and found it quite easy to add in additional activities for our children which focused around the time period in which we found ourselves immersed. But then, as publishers, we found that many of our customers struggled with putting together additional activities and resources, such as discussion questions, further researching and writing, and the occasional activity to go along with the study of history.

As a homeschool mom myself, I must admit, the thought of not having to come up with ideas to supplement everyday of the school year was appealing to me as well. And so, as usual, I took it upon myself to put together a history curriculum that would keep the focus on Charlotte Mason’s philosophy of using living books as a base, while integrating some of the other activities our customers were asking for.

This series is the result of our efforts. I pray you find them rewarding, simple to use, and a breath of fresh air in the world of homeschool history curriculum.

In Christ’s Service,

Sandi Queen

Author and Publisher

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How to Use:

Like all the curriculum we publish, this series is set up very simply, and may be used by students of a variety of ages. Each volume focuses on a different time period in history, and each week's lesson has a true history story to introduce the week's lesson.

This particular volume is geared toward children who are not yet ready to do the researching and writing activities and looking up weekly vocabulary words, such as is featured in the books in this series which are geared toward older children.

On Mondays, your child will learn new vocabulary words pertinent to understanding the history of the chosen time period. On Tuesday, he will read the chapter for that week, where the new history lesson is introduced. For pre-readers, this portion may be done with you, the parent, reading the story aloud. The rest of that week is spent digging more deeply into the chosen time period through drawing, coloring, building a timeline, and other activities that help bring your chosen time period to life. When building the timeline, since stories may not always be in chronological order, you will place them according to their time in history, allowing the student to see the overlap of different people and events. Each new lesson begins a new week. It's truly that simple.

Because this book is consumable and may not be photocopied, each child will need his own book to write in. You may copy the timeline pictures if you don't want to cut them out of your student's book.

For the student who is older and able to do the reading on his own, this book may be used independently if you wish. Our intent is to keep things engaging and enjoyable, and simple for families. Using multiple copies of the same book for multiple ages, or even different books for different ages of children allows for simplicity, and it's always nice when you can all be studying the same thing at the same time, even though everyone is working at his own level.

For Additional Enhancement:

We publish another series called "Observing History Through Picture Study," which are different sets of full color paintings, each painted during a specific time period by artists of that time period. Each painting depicts something from everyday life during that era, and really helps bring your chosen time period to life by giving beautiful visual representation. A study guide is included which tells more about each painting, its artist, what is going on in the painting, and how that pertains to life during that time in history. While not mandatory to use with this series, it does make a nice addition.

There is also a list of additional resources in the back, which are purely optional, but will enhance the study of this time period if you should choose to add them.

And Now....Let Us Begin.

Lesson 1, Day 1: Vocabulary

One of the words in this week's story that will help you understand this time period better is **emperor**.

An emperor at the time of our story this week was a male monarch, or ruler, of great power who ruled over an empire.

Here is a picture of the emperor we will read about tomorrow, Augustus Caesar.



Lesson 1, Day 2: To Read

Jesus is Born

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a young woman named Mary in Nazareth, a town of Galilee. She was to be married to a man named Joseph, of the family of David. When he came to her the angel said, "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women."

She was startled by his words and wondered what such a greeting might mean. But the angel said to her, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

"And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" The angel answered her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Mary said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." Then the angel left her.

In those days the Emperor Augustus Caesar commanded that every one should be registered to be taxed. So all went to be registered, each to his own town. Joseph, because he was of the family of David, went to be registered with Mary, his wife, from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea where David was born. While they were there Mary's first son was born. And she wrapped him in swaddling-clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

In that country there were shepherds living in the fields and keeping watch over their flocks by night. And an angel from God stood by them and a heavenly light shone around them, and they were frightened. But the angel said to them:

"Fear not, for behold I bring you good news
Of great joy which shall be for all the people.
For to you is born this day in the town of David

A Saviour who is God's Anointed.

This will be a sign to guide you:

You will find a baby in swaddling-clothes lying in a manger."

Then suddenly there was with the angel a great number of the heavenly ones singing praise to God and saying:

"Glory to God on high,

And on earth peace, good-will among men."

When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem to see this which God has made known to us." So they went quickly and found Mary and Joseph; and the baby was lying in a manger.

When they had seen him, they made known what had been told them about this child. All who heard the words of the shepherds wondered, but Mary kept these things to herself and often thought about them. And the shepherds returned, thanking and praising God for what they had heard and seen, as it had been foretold.

Lesson 1, Day 3: To Draw

Copy the drawing of the emperor, Augustus Caesar.



Lesson 1, Day 4: To Color

Turn your book sideways and color the picture of Mary and Joseph with Jesus in the stable with the shepherds.



Lesson 1, Day 5: Timeline of Events

Because the dates in the history of this volume occurred before some historical events were recorded accurately, we are going to list them with approximate dates.

This event, the birth of Jesus Christ, happened in approximately 5 BC. Add this event to your timeline as shown. There are instructions in the back of this book for how to assemble your timeline, as well as a list of events in order.



Birth of
Jesus Christ
Approx. 5 BC

The pages in this book are copyrighted and not allowed to be photocopied, but we do give permission to photocopy the timeline pictures if you do not wish to cut them out of your book. Here is the picture to add to your timeline this week.



NOTE TO PARENT:

Since this book is for young children, this question may or may not come up - but we want to equip you in case it does. Some may ask, "How could Jesus have been born in 5 BC? That means 'Before Christ!'"

The answer is that a Roman monk known as "Dennis the Little" (real name Dionysius Exiguus) made a mistake when he tried to reform the calendar around the birth of Christ, mistakenly placing this event 753 years after the founding of Rome. We know this is in error, as King Herod died before this (749 years after the founding of Rome), so he would not have even been alive at the time of the birth of Christ if Dennis the Little had been correct.

Unfortunately, by the time this was realized, our calendar of time had already been in use for a long time, and it would have been more confusing to change it.

Lesson 2, Day 1: Vocabulary

One of the words in this week's story that will help you understand this time period better is **scribe**.

A scribe, back in Bible times, was a person whose job it was to copy important documents, particularly the Scriptures.

Before there were other ways to copy text, this is how people made copies of important writings.

Here is a picture of some scribes at work:



Lesson 2, Day 2: To Read

The Wise Men Bring Gifts to the Young Child

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the east saw the star in the sky which marked the location of His birth, and came to Jerusalem to ask, "Where is the newly born King of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard these things, he was filled with jealousy, and greatly troubled. He gathered all the high priests and scribes together, and asked them where the Scriptures said the Christ was to be born. They answered him, "In Bethlehem of Judea."

Herod was livid! He was King – and no one, particularly a little baby, was going to take over his throne and become the king in his place! He would see to that!

Herod secretly called the wise men to him, and asked them exactly how long the star had been seen since it appeared in the east. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with the command, "Go and search carefully for the young child, and when you have found him, come and let me know, that I also may go and worship him."

When they had finished meeting with the king, they went away, and the star which they had seen in the east went before them until it stood over the place where the young child was.

They were overjoyed at the sight; and when they came into the house and saw the Child with Mary, His mother, they knelt down and worshipped Him.

Then they presented to him gifts of gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

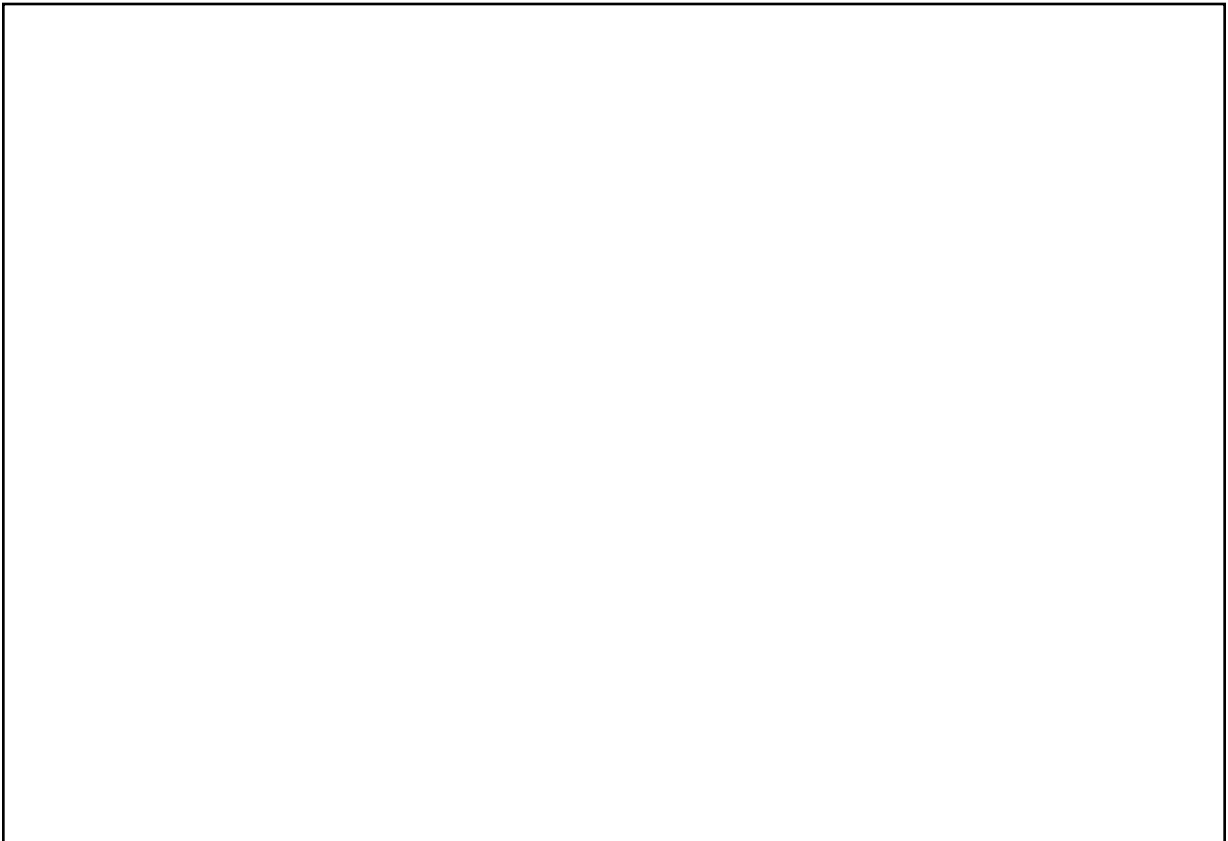
Being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another way.

We can see how important it was that the wise men were attentive to the leading of God, Who warned them not to go back to Herod, who wanted to kill Jesus and save his own throne. Imagine if they had dismissed that leading, and had gone back to Herod and told him where to find Jesus, how different things might have been for all mankind forever.

Let us learn from this to always be attentive to the leading of the Lord. For we never know where just one decision contrary to His will may lead us.

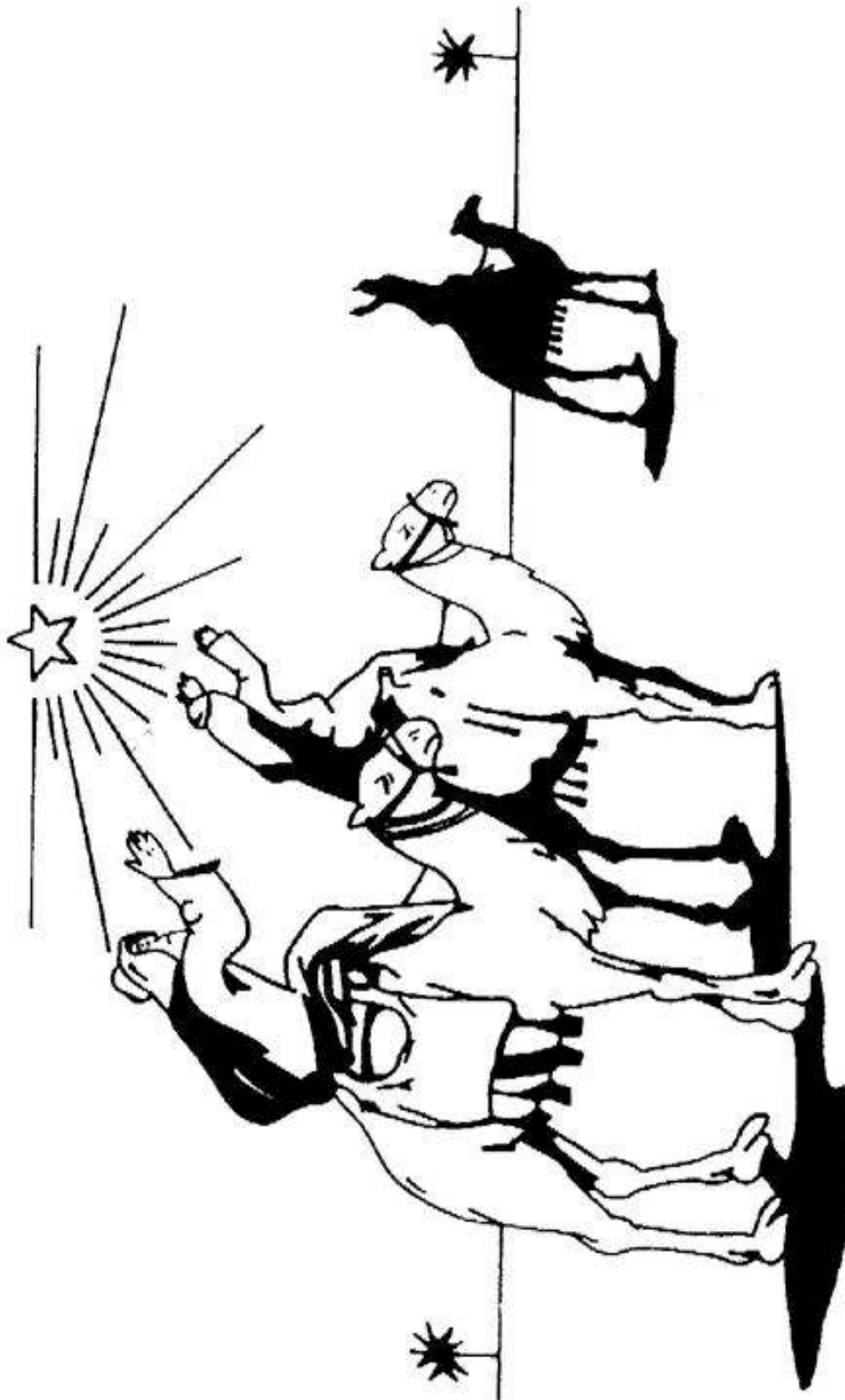
Lesson 2, Day 3: To Draw

One of the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus was gold. We don't know what form that gold was in – whether it was coins, gold jewelry, or in another form, only that it was precious enough to present to the King. Copy the drawing of the bag of gold coins below.



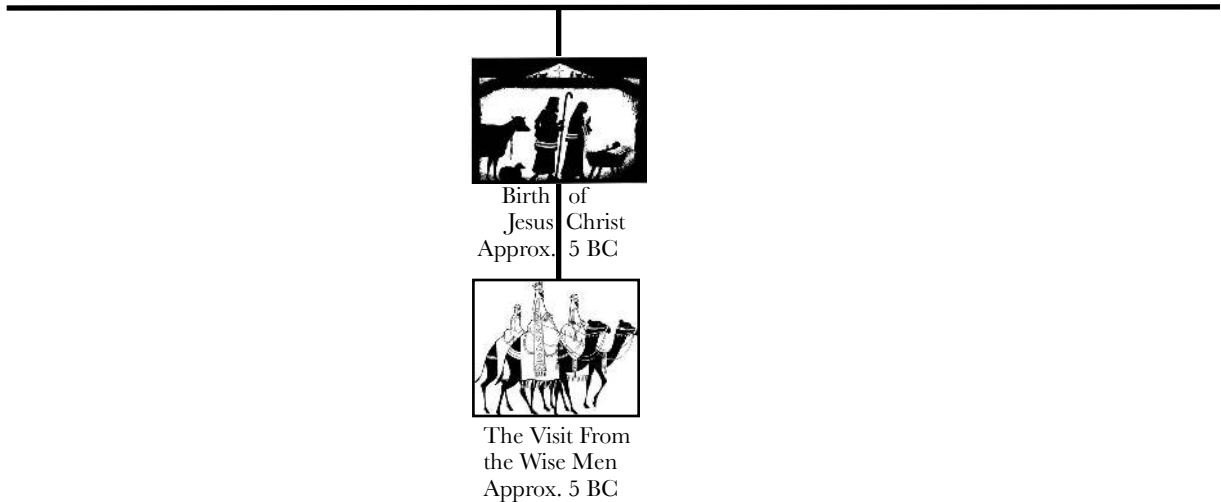
Lesson 2, Day 4: To Color

Turn your book sideways and color the picture of the wise men following the star.



Lesson 2, Day 5: Timeline of Events

The Bible does not give us the exact age of Jesus when the wise men came to visit Him. We know that the wise men did not arrive when Jesus was still in the stable where He was born. We know that Jesus was born at night, and that the shepherds saw His star in the sky. We know that it was about six miles to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, from Jerusalem, where they met with King Herod. Knowing that they would have much slower travel than we do today, the very earliest the wise men would have arrived in Bethlehem would be the next day, though some scholars believe Jesus was two or three years old by the time they arrived. Since we don't know exactly when this event occurred, we will list it at approximately 5 BC. Add this event to your timeline as shown.



Here is the picture to add to your timeline.

