

Sunday 7th January 2024

Epiphany



Today's Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12:

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, 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.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Today we celebrate Epiphany, which means "made manifest" or "shown". We remember when the Christchild was revealed to all the world – not just the

Jews. The Magi, or wise men, brought gifts, which some people see as symbols of all major human concerns:

- Gold, which symbolises wealth, commerce and finance
- Frankincense, which represents religion and humanity's search for God
- Myrrh, which symbolises all humankind's questions about death

Listen to the gospel reading and see if you can answer these questions (answers at foot of the colouring page):

1. Where did the wise men go first to look for the newborn king?

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2. Who was the king at the time?

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3. Where had the prophet said that the Messiah would be born?

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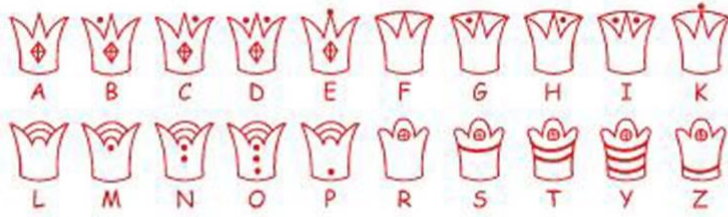
4. Who was with the Christchild when the wise men found him?

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5. Did they return to Jerusalem?

Why did they make this decision?

Decode the names of the Wise Men:



and _____



BONUS: Use the same decoder to figure out what gifts the kings brought.



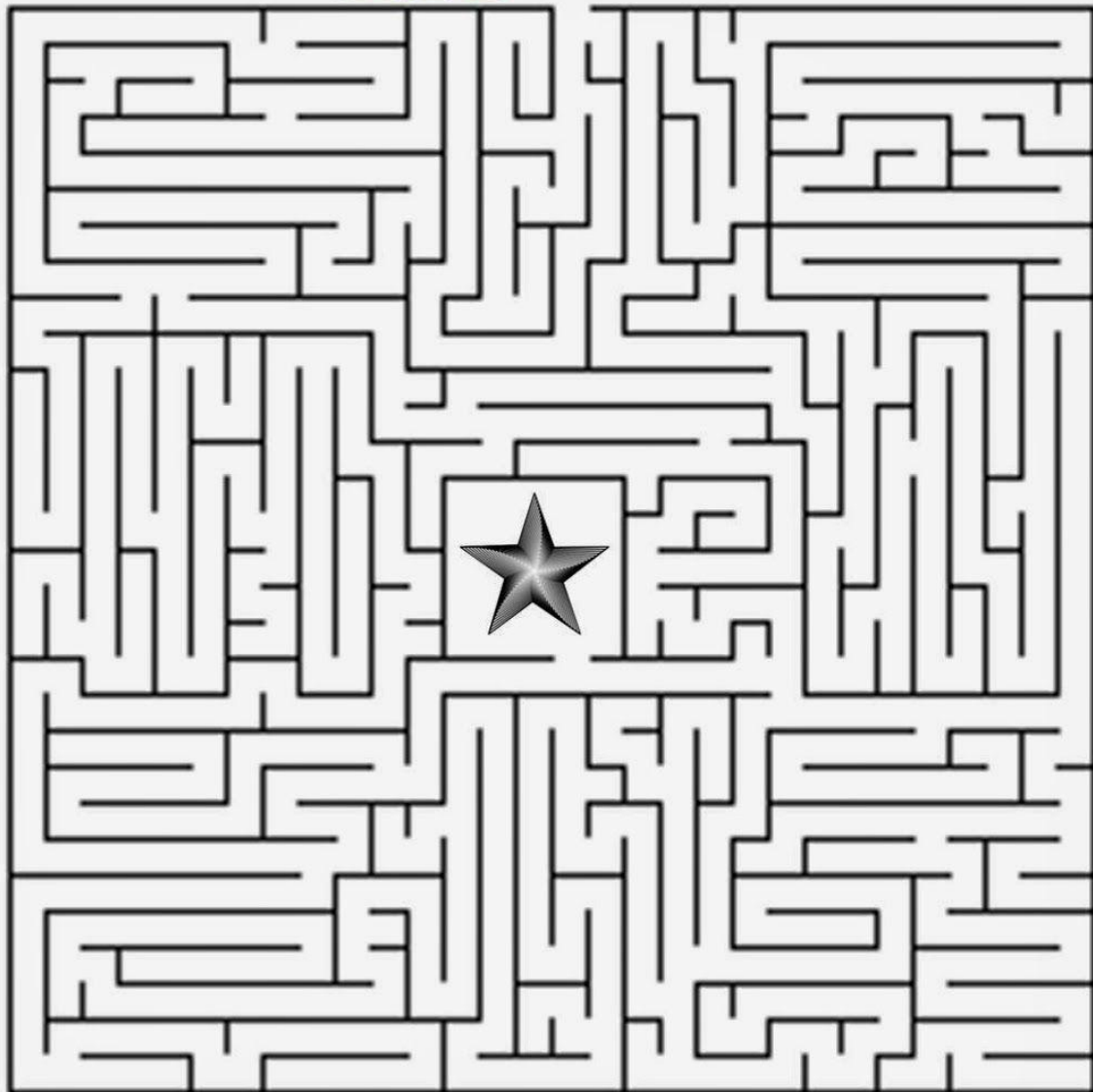
_____, _____, and _____



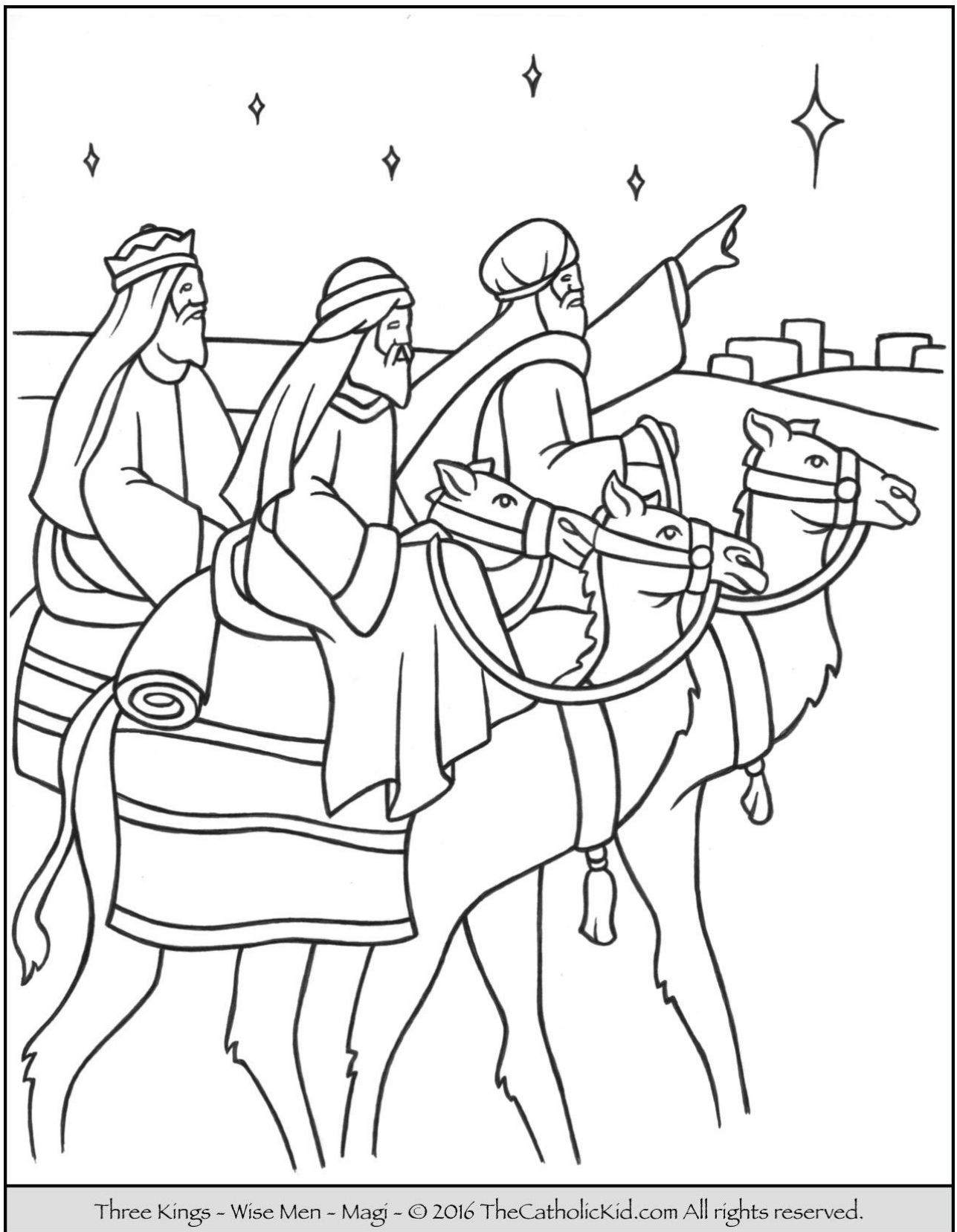


Christmas Maze

Can you help the wise men follow the star to find Jesus?



A picture to print and colour:



Three Kings - Wise Men - Magi - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com All rights reserved.

Answers to quiz: 1. Jerusalem. 2. King Herod. 3. Bethlehem. 4. His mother, Mary.
5. No - they were warned in a dream not to return.