

Daniel and the Magi

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Content area: Bible, ancient history, prophesy

Based on: Daniel 1-6, 9 and Matthew 2

Recommended Ages/ target audience: Upper elementary to adult

Ideal Group Size: 7 to 12

Suggested Time: How long do you anticipate players needing to complete this game? 60 minutes plus additional time for reflection.

STORY: The Star has appeared in the sky and magi in the East hasten to break the seal on a document left by the prophet Daniel. The scroll speaks of a treasure that has been hidden and locked away for this time. It must be found quickly and delivered to the Messiah. But time is short and the star moves. Can your group decode, decipher and unlock in time to gather the treasure and follow the star?

MATERIALS NEEDED

3 and 4 number combo locks, 5 letter lock, shape/directional lock, UV light pen and flashlight, large box, 1 large and 1 small break out boxes, 2 small keyed lock boxes, 3 regular locks with keys, 6 lock hasp.

Lock Combinations: What codes will open the locks on the box?

5 letter lock TEKEL

3 number combo 107

4 number combo 1185

5 shape lock Circle (statue), north, north (fallen phrases), square, triangle (crossword)

Setup Instructions:

1. Print the materials, clues and answer keys
2. Roll up the scroll and seal with wax or tape.

3. Post pages 1 & 8 (statue and balance)
4. Print adequate copies of pages 3, 5, 7 and 12- number chart, crossword and fallen letter puzzles (about one copy/2-3 players plus one of each to mark with UV pen. We call these the "marked master copies")
5. Using answer key as a guide, mark the indicated squares on the "marked master copies" with the UV pen. Place the marked master copies in the large breakout box.
6. Choose between pages 10 and 11 (10 is easier). Cut the puzzles apart into their pieces. Place 2 pieces from each puzzle into large box. Hide and/or post the other pieces.
7. Cut apart the 3 hints and three "gifts" (gold, frankincense and myrrh). Put the hints in small keyed box 1. Add lock and hide the key.
8. Put "gold" in small breakout box
9. Place "Myrrh" in small keyed box 2 and place lock on small keyed box 2. Put the key to small keyed box 2 with the sealed scroll.
10. Put "frankincense" in the large breakout box.
11. Add the 6 lock hasp to small break out box. Lock with 1 keyed lock, both number locks and the direction/shape lock.
12. Place small breakout box in large break out box and hide the key to the keyed lock.
13. Place UV flashlight in large breakout box. Check to make sure you also have 2 puzzle pieces from each jigsaw puzzle, "Frankincense" and the master marked copies in the large break out box before locking the large break out box with the 5 letter combo lock.
14. Put all the player copies of the fallen letter puzzles, crossword puzzle and number chart into small keyed lock box 2 with the myrrh. Lock it with key 2. Hide this box in such a way it is not too difficult to find or you will have a bottleneck.

TO BEGIN

15. To begin with players, inform them they are in "the East" shortly after the birth of Christ. They are students of the Magi - those possessing wisdom and knowledgeable, perceptive, and capable of watching the stars, those who solve puzzles and problems, explain riddles, and interpret dreams. Have three players read the reader's theater script to introduce the activity.

16. Hand players the scroll and key to box 2.

Reflection Questions:

- 1 Which clue was the hardest? Easiest?
- 2 What clue was easiest to work on with others? By yourself?
- 3 The Bible does not definitively link Daniel and the Magi. What are some other possibilities of how the "wise men on the East" knew to follow the star and bring gifts?
- 4 Several times jealous men tried to get rid of Daniel and his friends but could not find just cause. How did their integrity reflect on God? How can this apply to us today?
- 5 Daniel cautioned the king "Separate yourself from your sins by doing what is right, and from your injustices by showing mercy to the needy" in 4:27. How does this apply to leaders and us today?
- 6 How might the gifts helped Mary, Joseph and Jesus during their escape to Egypt?
- 7 What kingdom does the stone in Daniel 2 represent?
- 8 Daniel served four different kings from 3 different nations. How did he influence them?
- 9 How was having friends in the same (sometimes bad, sometimes stressful) situation helpful to Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? How can we apply this to our situations today?

Tags or Keywords: Bible, Daniel, Babylon, Persia, Old Testament, Magi