

From Christmas to Epiphany –journeying on with the star

Christmas has only just begun; there are 12 days to keep celebrating, and following the star until we reach Epiphany on January 6th. That's when we remember the journey made by the three kings to find Jesus. Why not continue your Christmas by following the star with them as you try these activities at home? There's one for each day.



<p>1 Star followers: Send the Magi (Wise Men/Kings) from your Crib Set on a journey round the house starting on Christmas Day, until they arrive back on Epiphany. Find different places for them each day.</p>	<p>2 Star search: Each day, someone in the family places a star in a different place around the house. Younger children can search for it and then move the Magi to that place.</p> 	<p>3 Star journey: Make your own Epiphany Posada by creating some wise men figures and a star to follow. Visit friends and invite them to welcome the wise men on the days between Christmas and 6th January.</p>	<p>4 Star tour: Make a string of stars. Label each one with a different word: homeless, frightened, fighting, hungry, lonely, hurting, laughing, crying, hiding, running, working, singing, loving, searching. Choose one each day and pray that God's star light would be close to those in that situation.</p>
<p>5 Star gift: Make a small gift box and decorate it with stars. Place a simple gift inside or a promise of something, such as tidying up or walking the dog. Offer it as a gift to someone today, one of the 12 days of Christmas.</p> 	<p>6 Star point: Place a large star in an open space. As you turn from the North to the East to the South and to the West, ask God to protect people who are travelling to be with friends and family for New Year.</p>	<p>7 Star lead: Give each person a star to hold and talk together about what your family would like to do next year. Ask God to bless your family as you move into the new year and to guide anyone who feels a bit lost, especially at this time of the year.</p>	<p>8 Star name: Look out and choose one star to follow. Step outside each clear night that follows and try to spot that star. Remember those who followed the stars to find Jesus.</p> 
<p>9 Star guide: Sailors use the North Star to help them find their way at night. Make a paper boat to float in water and place it near a star. Ask God to protect everyone who is travelling for work, for their safety, for their joy as they travel, and also when they arrive.</p>	<p>10 Star light: As a family, light a candle in a darkened room. Look at the shape of the light from the flame. See how many star shapes you can see. Then invite each person to whisper their hopes for the coming year as a prayer.</p>	<p>11 Star memories: Choose a star that reminds you of something special that happened over Christmas and say a short thank you prayer.</p> 	<p>12 Star turn: As the Christmas season ends with Epiphany, choose one star to keep shining in your home all year round as a reminder that the light of Jesus Christ is with you every day.</p>