



Gospel Story: Who Knows How Many?

Story Focus: If children made figures of the holy family in Session 5, you can use those figures as a focal point for today's story. You can also simply use a crèche set.

Once in a faraway country, a star rose in the East. The star was seen by men who studied the nighttime sky. Legend tells us that the men were kings; no one knows how many.

The kings ordered their servants to get ready. The servants saddled the kings' camels. The camels carried clothes, food and gifts, wrapped into bundles. Who knows how many? (This question, asked several times as a story refrain, is meant to be rhetorical. You can emphasize this by giving a slight shrug as you can tell the question.)

The kings led their camels through the burning sands of the deserts. The kings led their camels over the pointed and snowy mountains. The kings led their camels through rough and rushing rivers. Who knows how far?

But all this time the star led the way, as the kings traveled for miles and miles. The star brought the kings and camels to a stable filled with animals. Mary knelt there, singing to a baby lying in straw, singing song after song. Who knows how many?

Joseph stood by Mary, his eyes filled with wonder, as into the stable walked the kings.

The kings gave gifts to the child, gift after gift. "This child is a king, too," said one. "I have brought gold for a king."

"This child is God's own Son," said another. "I have brought incense to burn for God's own Son."

"One day this child will give his life for God's people," said another. "I have brought sweet-smelling myrrh to remember that day."

Then the kings worshiped the child, staying by the child's cradle hour after hour, until the time came to start again for home. Back they traveled, mile after mile. Who knows how many? But their story is told to all God's people even to this day.