



WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYER JOURNEY

Today you will be going on a journey of talking and listening to God.

Are you ready to...

...look with your eyes,

...listen with your ears,

...touch with your hands,

...smell with your nose?



STAR GAZING

Look through the star into the Christmas Box to
start your Christmas Prayer Journey

ARE YOU READY?

God sent a special star for the Shepherds and Wise Men to follow so they could find the baby Jesus.

Are you ready for the journey to find Jesus?
If so, then follow the stars...

BAGGAGE

When you take a journey, you have to take luggage, or 'baggage'. Sometimes baggage is used to describe our feelings of worry, sadness or bad moods.

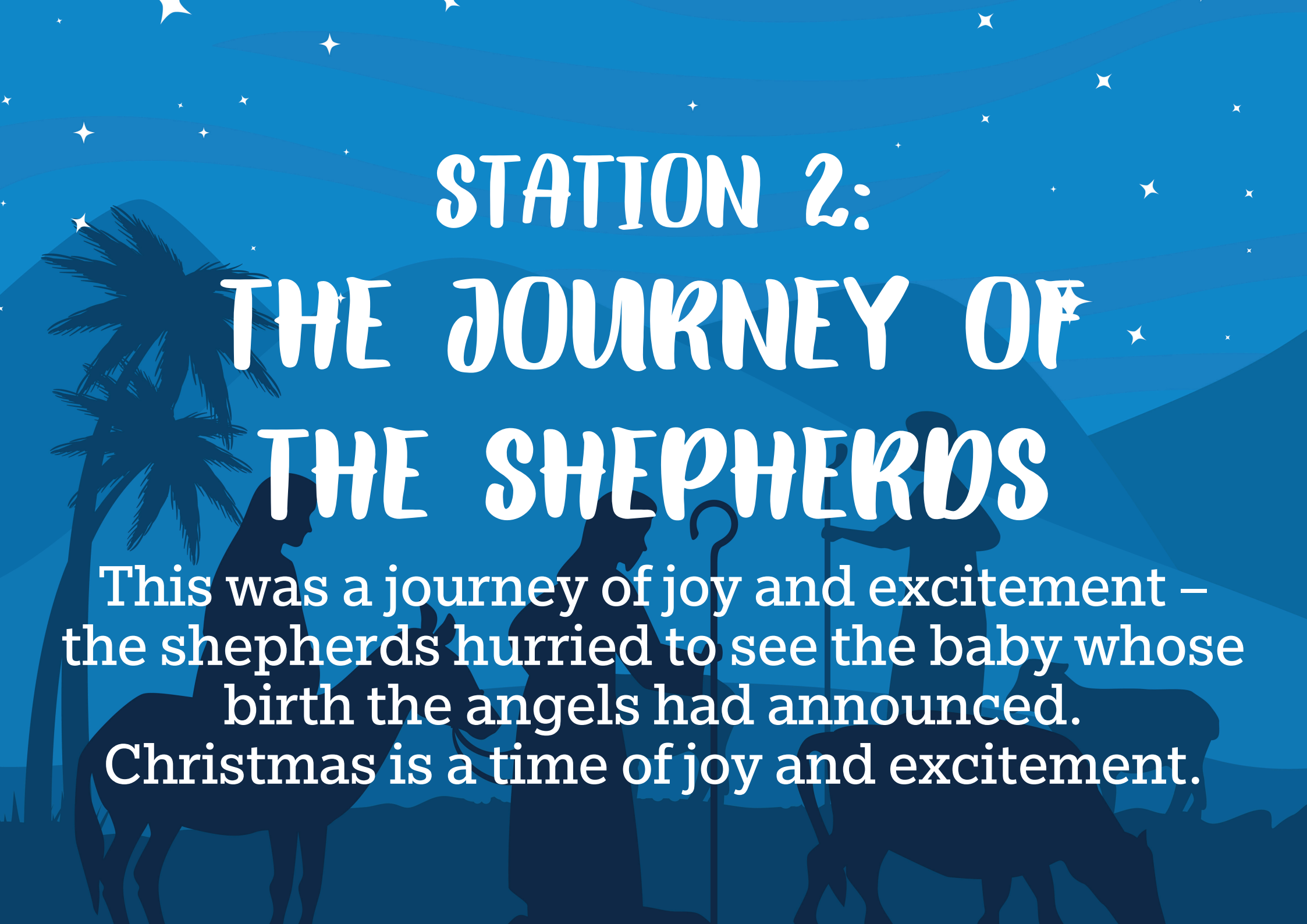
Mary and Joseph had to go on a long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. It would have taken **so** long, and been **so** hot and dusty!. They probably arrived exhausted, and worried because Jesus was going to be born soon, and they had to sleep next to the animals! It was hard!

I WONDER...

What do you find hard?
What do you worry about?

Pick a stone out of the suitcase. As you hold onto your stone, remember that God knows what it's like to have hard times. God promises to be with us in our hard times.

Now throw your stone in the bin! Ask God to take away your worries, just like you have thrown away your stone.

The background features a dark blue night sky filled with white stars of various sizes. In the foreground, there are dark blue silhouettes of three shepherds and their flock. One shepherd on the left is riding a donkey. The other two shepherds are on foot, one holding a staff. The sheep are scattered around them. The overall scene is a classic representation of the shepherds' journey.

STATION 2: THE JOURNEY OF THE SHEPHERDS

This was a journey of joy and excitement – the shepherds hurried to see the baby whose birth the angels had announced. Christmas is a time of joy and excitement.



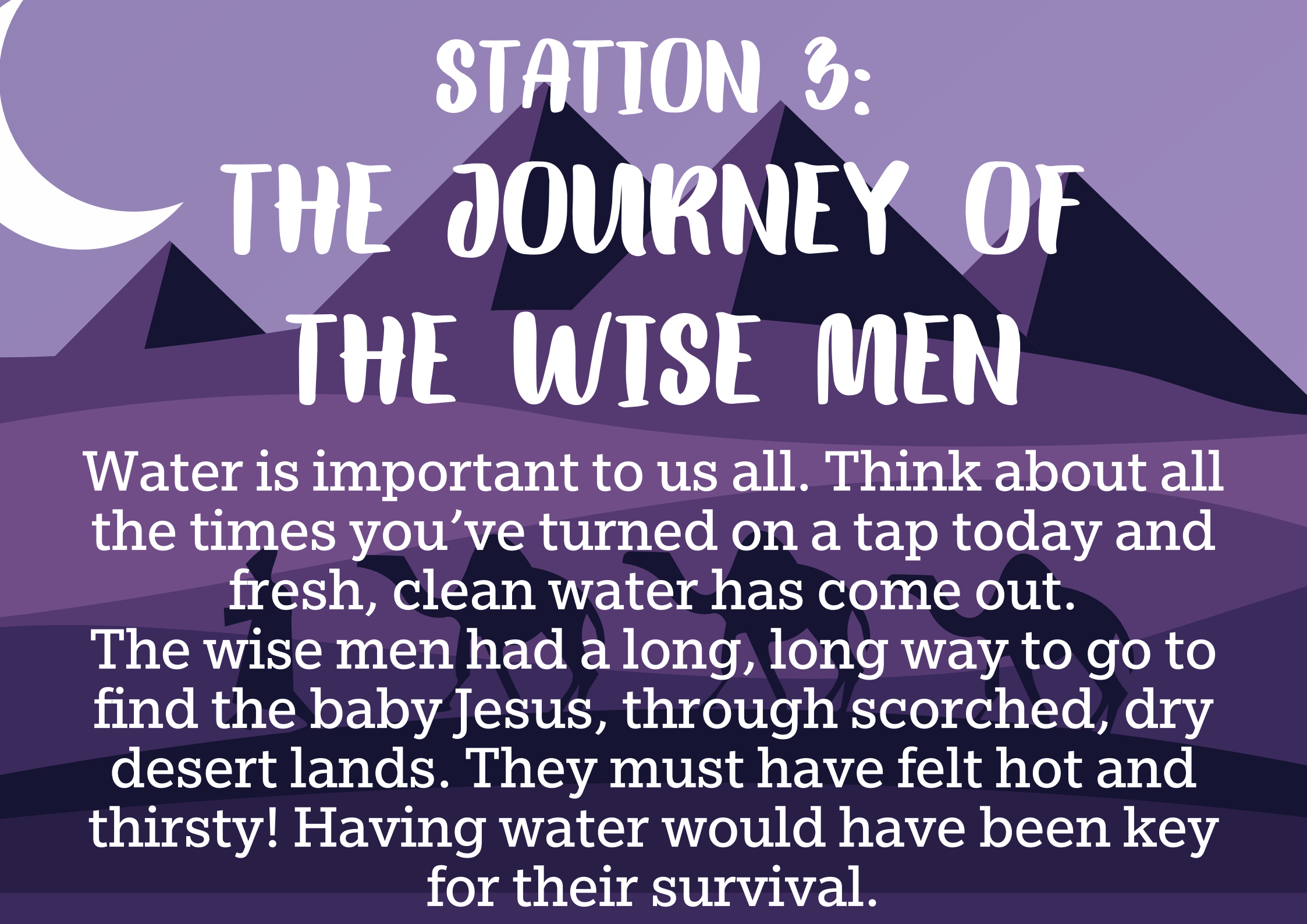
I WONDER...

What are you excited about this Christmas?

On a strip of paper, write something that makes you excited at Christmas.

Peg the paper onto the hoop to build up a mobile of exciting things!

Take a candy cane to remind you that Jesus is the real reason for the season.



STATION 3: THE JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN

Water is important to us all. Think about all the times you've turned on a tap today and fresh, clean water has come out.

The wise men had a long, long way to go to find the baby Jesus, through scorched, dry desert lands. They must have felt hot and thirsty! Having water would have been key for their survival.



I WONDER...

Think about the children in countries where they don't have enough water and get sick from drinking bad water.

Drink a cup of water and as you do thank God for the refreshing, clean water we have.

Pray for the children who don't have clean water and all the other things we have like a beautiful and peaceful country to live in and presents at Christmas and birthdays.

The background is a monochromatic blue-toned illustration of a desert scene. At the top center is a bright, multi-pointed star. Below it, the text 'STATION 3: THE GIFTS OF THE WISE MEN' is written in a large, white, stylized font. The scene includes silhouettes of palm trees, a caravan of camels with riders, and rolling hills in the distance.

STATION 3: THE GIFTS OF THE WISE MEN

The journey of the wise men was one of worship – they travelled far and wide to find baby Jesus – they gave him their gifts and also gave him their lives.



I WONDER...

Like the wise men, think about what you can give to others and to Jesus this Christmas. Write the gift you'd like to bring to Jesus on the box and take it to place around the manger with baby Jesus.



THE GIFTS OF THE WISE MEN

Frankincense – watch the smoke of the incense travel upwards. Smell its perfume.

Myrrh – dab a little drop of the perfume onto the back of your hand using the cotton bud.

Gold – take a chocolate gold coin to remind you what a precious gift Jesus is to us.



STATION 5: YOUR JOURNEY WITH JESUS

Jesus came to be the light for the world- for us in our lives, and for everyone around the world. The big candle is called the Christ Candle, and it represents Jesus. Just like a candle brings light into a dark room, Jesus brings hope to a world that can sometimes feel dark and scary.

I WONDER...

Look at the candle and think of a person who needs the comfort of God's love.

Light a small candle from the Christ Candle and quietly think about what Christmas means to you.

Kneel at the cross of candles and remember the joy, hope, light and peace that Jesus brings you.

Think of how you can be a 'light' for Jesus in the world.