

# Spicy Crown Art

By Ruth Hanley



January 6 is Epiphany, also called Three Kings Day. Recall the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus as your family creates a sweet-smelling reminder of the ways Christ blesses all who enter your home.

## For

Young Family

## Season

Winter

## Needed

House Blessing worksheet (see last page), Bible, ground spices, ice cube tray or muffin pan, measuring spoons, toothpicks, small paintbrushes or cotton swabs; optional: chalk



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## Prepare in Advance

- Make one copy of the House Blessing worksheet for each exterior door in your home. If possible, make copies on card stock.
- Mark your Bible at Matthew 2:1-12.
- Choose three or four ground spices. Try cinnamon, yellow curry powder, pumpkin pie spice, poultry seasoning, ginger, cloves, or nutmeg. Avoid forms of pepper.
- To make each of the spice paints, put 1 teaspoon of ground spice in a section of an empty ice cube tray or muffin pan and use a toothpick to stir in 2 teaspoons water. It should look like a runny paste.
- Plan to do this activity on a table that is easy to clean.

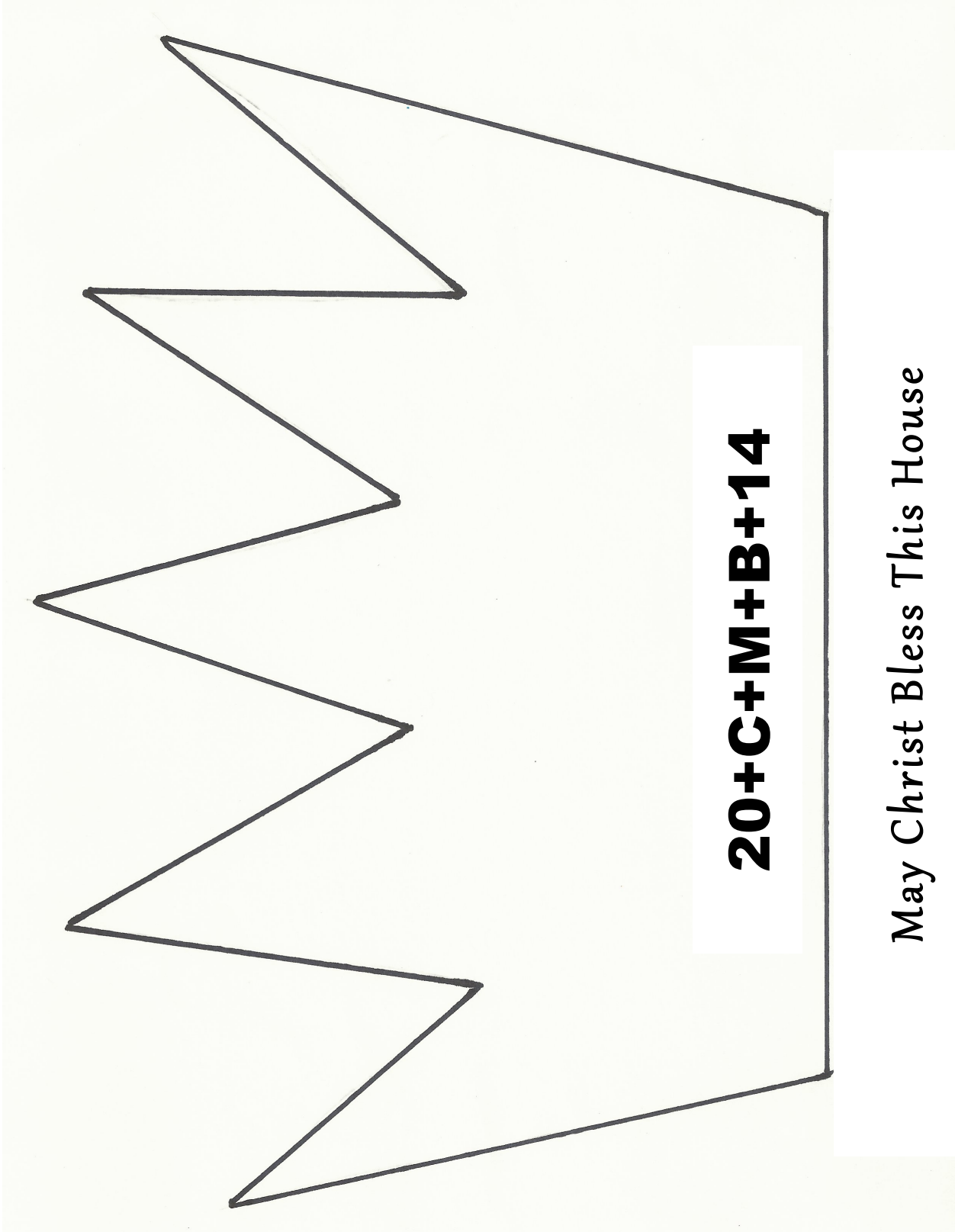
## Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin:

*Dear God, as we smell these spices, remind us of the sweet gifts the wise men brought to Jesus. In this new year, bless our family and all the people who visit us. Amen.*

2. Have a family member read aloud Matthew 2:1-12 from your Bible. Discuss why you think the wise men wanted to find Jesus.
3. Explain that some people think these wise men were kings. Illustrations of this story often show the wise men wearing crowns. Though the Bible does not say so, some people think there were three kings because there were three gifts. Long ago, when someone was telling the story, he gave names to these three kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Place the copies of the House Blessing worksheet on the table. Point out the letters and numbers—20+C+M+B+14—formed from the current year and the first initial of each of the wise men. The letters C, M, B also represent a blessing in Latin, which is translated: “May Christ Bless This House.”
4. Point out that the presents the wise men brought included spices (frankincense and myrrh). Set out the spice paint and have family members use small paintbrushes or cotton swabs to paint the crown(s) with the spices.
5. After they dry, put a spicy crown near each exterior door to welcome visitors. As you do, talk about the ways Christ has blessed your family in the past and the blessings you will pray for in the year to come.
6. Variation: With chalk, write 20+C+M+B+14 on each exterior door frame—the traditional place for this blessing to be written.





**20+C+M+B+14**

May Christ Bless This House

