

SEASON OF HOPE – WEEK TWO
BRING SOME GIFTS

Matthew 2:1–12, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8–9

THE MEANING OF THE GIFTS...

- GOLD = DEITY
- FRANKINCENSE = WORSHIP
- MYRRH = SACRIFICE

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study

For Starters: What have been the best and worst Christmas (or birthday) gifts you have received? Why do we give gifts, not only at Christmas? Do you prefer to give or receive gifts?

The Basics: Read Matthew 2:1–11 and Luke 2:1–14. What are the similarities and differences in these two Christmas accounts? What stands out to you and why? Why do you think Matthew is the only Gospel to record the later visit of the wise men? Discuss.

Quick-Fire Round

1. Read Matthew 2:11. Why did the Magi bring gifts to Jesus? What did they know and understand about Jesus? Was this unusual?
2. Read Genesis 13:2, Exodus 25:11–18, Ecclesiastes 2:8, 1 Kings 10:1–2, John 19:19, and Revelation 11:15. What is the significance of gold then and now? Who or what does gold represent? What does this say about the Magi's understanding of Jesus? How does the gift of gold offer hope today?
3. Read Exodus 30:1–8, Isaiah 60:6, and Jeremiah 6:20. How was frankincense traditionally used in the Old Testament? Read Psalm 141:2, Luke 1:10, and Revelation 5:8, 8:3–5. What is the significance of incense in regard to prayer? How can this symbolism lead one to worship and seek God daily?
4. Read Isaiah 53:3–5, Hebrews 10:10–12, John 19:39–40, and Mark 16:1. How does myrrh represent sacrifice, and what does this mean in relation to your personal understanding of Jesus?
5. Read Matthew 6:23, John 3:16–18, Ephesians 2:3–9, and Romans 10:9–10. What is the difference between a wage and a gift? What gift is God offering everyone willing to accept it? How will you respond? How can you share this gift with others this Christmas?

Community Group Word-based Prayer: Using the Scriptures above, spend time thanking God for sending Jesus as a gift to us—as prophet, priest, and king.

A Closing Prayer: Father God, thank you for the gift of life in Jesus alone. I receive this gift by grace through faith if I have not yet, and I will share this gift with others. Amen.