

## Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh A Gift for Royalty

personal / group study for use with the message of December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Turn back to God, for the kingdom of heaven is here” (Matthew 4:17).**

A King and His Kingdom. Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven had arrived. He came to set the captives free. He came to rescue you from sin and death. One soul at a time, until some day all of creation will be redeemed. The kingdom Jesus was talking about was not an ordinary earthly kingdom, in fact when the people tried to make him king by force, he withdrew again to a mountain by himself (John 6:14-15).

### Introduction.

This is the first of three lessons on the gifts given to the baby Jesus. We give gifts each Christmas just as Jesus received gifts. This week reminds us that Jesus received gold because it was a gift for royalty. Both the Jews and the Gentiles were looking for the Messiah as demonstrated by the Wise men (the Magi) from the east, being guided to the child Jesus, whom they worshipped with their gifts.

### Read.

*Matthew 2:1-12: “After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem<sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”*

*<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ<sup>4c</sup> was to be born. <sup>5</sup>“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:*

*<sup>6</sup>“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.”*

*<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”*

*<sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”*

\*All scripture taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.

### Questions.

#### ThinkAboutIt...

1. What kind of a king do you want Jesus to be?
2. Is he the ruler of your whole life?

#### ReflectOnIt...

3. Read the prophecy in Matthew 2, why did the wise men travel to Bethlehem?

4. What did the wise men do when they found the baby?
5. Why did they give Jesus gold?
6. Look up Matthew 27:29-30 & 37. What are the people doing? Why are they mocking and calling Him a king?

**RespondTolt...**

7. This Christmas time worship Jesus as your King! Worship him with your treasure as the ruler of your life!

## Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh A Gift for Immanuel

personal / group study for use with the message of December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009

***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made” (John 1:1-3).***

Last week we learned that the gift the Magi brought was Gold for a King. The second gift they brought was Frankincense, a gift for God.

### Introduction.

The Bible plainly teaches that Jesus was and is the great “I AM”. He was there at creation! This is the second of three lessons on the gifts given to the baby Jesus. This gift honored Him as eternal God.

### Read.

**John 1:1-14:** *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning.*

*<sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood<sup>[a]</sup> it.*

*<sup>6</sup>There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.<sup>[b]</sup>*

*<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent,<sup>[c]</sup> nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

*<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,<sup>[d]</sup> who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

**Genesis 1:26:** *“Then God said, “Let US make man in OUR image, in OUR likeness,....”*

**John 14:8-9:** *“Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: “Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”?”*

**Colossians 1:13-17:** *“<sup>13</sup>For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

*<sup>15</sup>He is **the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; **all things were created by him and for him.** <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”*

\*All scripture taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.

## Questions.

### ThinkAboutIt...

1. What was the best gift you ever received for Christmas?
2. Did you know that Jesus eternally existed?

### ReflectOnIt...

3. Read John 1:1-3. Who is the Word? (the revelation of God)
4. Read John 1:18. Who did people of the Old Testament see?
5. Read John 14:8, 9. How do you get to know God the Father?
6. Why did they give Jesus frankincense? Do you honor Jesus as God Incarnate?

### RespondToIt...

7. Look up John 8:1-58. Verse 58 states that Jesus declared Himself to be the eternal I am. The Jews He was speaking to reacted violently. How have you reacted? Have you believed that He is God and Savior? Have you given Him your life?

**“We wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of OUR GREAT GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good” (Titus 2:13-14).**

## Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh A Gift of Myrrh for a Mortal

personal / group study for use with the message of December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of frankincense and of myrrh” (Matthew 2:11).*

*“Nicodemus came also, who had first come to Him by night; bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight. And so they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews” (John 19:39-40).*

### Introduction.

This is the last of three lessons on the gifts given to the baby Jesus. The gift this week reminded us that Jesus received myrrh because he came to die. Why was this the way to save the world? Jesus was God and King of all creation and our perfect sacrifice.

### Read.

**Hebrews 2:14-17:** *“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>1</sup>For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. (Or and that he might turn aside God's wrath, taking away the sins of the people).*

**1 Timothy 2:5-6:** *“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men.”*

**Hebrews 4:15:** *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet without sin.”*

\*All scripture taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.

### Questions.

#### ThinkAboutIt...

1. What do you learn about Jesus from the three gifts that were given to him? (Gold king, frankincense God, myrrh for a mortal)
2. Why would the wise men give Jesus a gift for dead people?

#### ReflectOnIt...

3. Why did God have to come as a man? Read Hebrews 2. (only as a human being could he die)
4. Why did Jesus have to die? Again read Hebrews 2 and 1 Timothy 2:5-6. (only by dying could he break the power of death, also read Phil. 1:21)
5. What did His death do to bring people and God into relationship?

6. Read both Hebrews 2 and 4 above. Is Jesus able to understand and to help us in our weakness? Thank Him for that.

**RespondTolt...**

4. Give Jesus your whole life. Live a life of worship in thankful praise to Him. Serving others with this new life He has given you at the great price of leaving His glory and dying for you.

***“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking around life—and place it before God as an offering” Romans 12:1 (the Message).***