

The Perfect Christmas Gift

Christmas Message Two

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Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ² “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.” ³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶ ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’” ⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸ Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!” ⁹ After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.
Matthew 2:1–12 (NLT)

What Makes the Perfect Gift?

1. IT'S GIVEN AT **THE RIGHT TIME**.

“Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, GNB)

“But when the right time finally came, God sent his own Son. He came as the son of a human mother and lived under the Jewish Law,” (Galatians 4:4, GNB)

“When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time...” (Romans 5:6, NLT)

2. IT MATCHES THE **NEED**.

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21, NKJV)

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” (Romans 3:23, NLT)

“In those days you were living apart from Christ...You lived in this world without God and without hope.” (Ephesians 2:12, NLT)

3. THE COST DEMONSTRATES THE **CARE**.

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6, NIV)

“God paid a great price for you.” (1 Corinthians 6:20a, CEV)

“...It cost God plenty to get you out of that...life you grew up in. He paid with Christ’s sacred blood...” (1 Peter 1:18–19, The Message)

4. IT’S GIVEN FOR THE **RIGHT REASON**.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NIV)

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” (Romans 5:8, NLT)

“When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.” (Titus 3:4–5, NLT)

5. IT’S **OPENED!**

“Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.” (John 4:10, NLT)

How to Unwrap God’s Gift to You

BELIEVE

“Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved...” (Acts 16:31, NLT)

RECEIVE

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.”

(Romans 10:9–10, NLT)

ACTION:

Invite and bring 10 people to the Christmas Candlelight Services!