

Christmas WORSHIPPING

**Where is this newborn king
of the Jews. We saw His star
as it rose, and we have come
to worship Him.”
Matthew 2:2**

- Take turns reading from
Matthew 2:1-12

We don't know for sure who the wise men from Matthew 2:2 or where they came from. Whoever they were, they knew the prophecy of the Savior, and they wanted to see Him with their own eyes. Expecting to see a mighty, earthly king, they instead saw a toddler with his mother. Biblical scholars believe that Jesus was around two years old when His visitors from the east came seeking Him. Bearing gifts that were fit for a king – gold, frankincense and myrrh - they humbly bowed and worshipped our Savior. What a sight that must have been!

These wise men from the east knew that this “king” was the greatest gift the world had ever been given. They also knew that He was worthy of all the worship and praise they could give Him. They bowed down to Jesus but also gave Him gifts that were fit for a future King. Gold was a gift for royalty; it was a precious metal fit for a king, and it acknowledged Jesus’ future reign in the Kingdom. Frankincense was a fragrance of worship for the divine and symbolizes Jesus’ nature as God come to earth. And myrrh was a special spice used for embalming; myrrh represents Jesus’s humanity and his coming death and burial. It foretells His suffering and sacrifice.

The gifts these wise men brought were gifts of worship, acknowledging that Jesus was God come to earth as a King who would die for our sins and rise again to give us eternal life. Jesus is worthy of all our worship – He is the all-powerful God who humbled Himself to save us and give us eternal life in Heaven.

We may not have gold or frankincense or myrrh to give to Jesus, but we can give Him our heartfelt worship this Christmas.

DISCUSS

- Talk about something you have seen that was absolutely incredible. How do you think the Magi felt when they finally saw Jesus, the King, for the first time?
- Without looking at the devotional, can you remember what the three gifts were and what they meant? What kind of gift can you give Jesus this Christmas?
- Think about the greatest Christmas gift you ever got. What was it? What makes Jesus even greater than that gift?

PRAYER

- Did you know that worship is not just about singing songs to Jesus. Songs are great and we all love to sing them. But prayer is also a very important part of worship. As God, today, to help you worship Jesus in song, prayer and scripture.
- As you gather and family with friends, take turns praying that God will help you worship Him with a grateful heart.

PRAISE

- Join in singing “We Three Kings”

*We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.*

[Refrain]

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

[Refrain]

*Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.*

[Refrain]

*Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.*

[Refrain]

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*

[Refrain]

*Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.*

[Refrain]