

December 28, 2025

What Gift Can We Bring?

Matthew 2:1-12

General group guidelines

- Create safety. Remind the group that sharing is voluntary and everything personal stays in the group.
 - Start broad, go deeper. Begin with observation and head-level questions before moving toward heart-level and life-application questions.
 - Listen more than talk. Let silence work; give people time to think before jumping in.
 - Draw out quieter voices. Gently invite, never force: “Would anyone who hasn’t shared yet like to add anything?”
 - Affirm, don’t fix. Thank people for honesty; resist the urge to correct every word. Point to Scripture and God’s character rather than to quick advice.
 - Keep Jesus central. Continually connect the discussion back to God’s love shown in Christ and the call to love God, self, and neighbor.
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Overview

The journey of the Magi reveals what genuine faith looks like in action. Willing to travel great distances, they sought Jesus, worshiped Him as King, and offered gifts that were meaningful and costly. Their story invites us to examine whether our own actions reflect what we say we believe. As we consider the significance of Christmas, we are challenged to think about what we are offering Jesus—our time, trust, obedience, and wholehearted devotion.

Discussion Questions with Leader Notes

1. What stands out to you most about the Magi’s journey and their response when they encountered Jesus?

Follow-ups:

- What surprised you about their story?
- Why do you think God chose outsiders to recognize Jesus early in his life?

Additional Scripture:

- Matthew 2:9–11 – The Magi rejoicing, worshiping, and offering gifts
 - Psalm 95:6 – “Come, let us bow down in worship...”
 - Isaiah 60:1–3 – Nations coming to the light of God’s glory
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2. The Magi believed the prophecies strongly enough to act. What are some ways belief and action are connected in everyday faith?

Follow-ups:

- Can belief exist without action?
- What gets in the way of acting on what we believe?

Additional Scripture:

- James 2:17 – “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”
 - Hebrews 11:1, 8 – Faith that moves people to obey without knowing the outcome
 - Luke 11:28 – “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”
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3. Scripture shows people offering many kinds of gifts to God—time, obedience, trust, sacrifice, worship. Which of these feels most challenging to offer consistently, and why?

Follow-ups:

- How do busyness or fear affect our ability to give these gifts?
- Which gift feels easiest right now?

Additional Scripture:

- Romans 12:1 – Offering ourselves as a living sacrifice

- Psalm 51:16–17 – God’s desire for a surrendered heart
 - Matthew 6:21 – “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
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4. The Magi brought gifts that were meaningful and costly to them. What might it look like for you to give something meaningful—not just convenient—to Jesus in this season?

Follow-ups:

- How do we tend to give God leftovers instead of our best?
- What holds us back from giving sacrificially?

Additional Scripture:

- Mark 14:3–9 – Mary of Bethany’s extravagant offering
 - 2 Samuel 24:24 – “I will not sacrifice...that cost me nothing.”
 - Luke 21:1–4 – The widow’s offering
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5. As you think about your daily rhythms and priorities, what is one specific step you sense God inviting you to take?

Follow-ups:

- What would help you take that step?
- How can this group support or pray for you?

Additional Scripture:

- Proverbs 3:5–6 – Trusting God with direction
- Micah 6:8 – Acting justly, loving mercy, walking humbly
- Psalm 37:5 – Committing your way to the Lord