



## **GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND ME!** **(Leader's Guide)**

*(Materials needed: Gift wrapped Mite Boxes to be given as gifts, Bibles, copies of participants' Bible study worksheets.)*

### **LEADER:**

Christmas is a time of giving. Each of you has been given a wrapped gift box. Please do not open it just yet. Just hold on to it during this Bible study as we talk about bringing “gifts” to God.

The night Jesus was born God gave the world the greatest gift it would ever receive. The gift of the newborn King came in a humble beginning, showing no signs of royalty. Yet wise men went to great lengths to come and worship Jesus and present Him with treasured gifts. With great faith they simply believed Him to be the Savior and worshipped Him.

### **The Wise Men**

- What is prophesied? *(Gentle kings will honor Him with gifts.)*

Psalm 72:10

Isaiah 60:6

- Who were these “kings?” *(No one really knows who they were, or where they came from. Tradition has them as kings because of the gifts they presented. They may have been wealthy astrologers from Arabia. The actual term used in the Greek word “Magi” means “wise men” or “sages.”)*

### **LEADER:**

The important thing to remember is that they came to worship Christ the King. They did not know where to find Him. But Jesus was revealed to them in signs they understood – the star. And they came with gifts to worship the King.

- What is the significance of the coming of the wise men? *(They were the first Gentiles to worship Jesus as the Messiah.)*
- How does this relate to the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19? *(The Good News is for all people. It is our task to share it throughout the world.)*

## The Wise Men's Gifts

- What were the three gifts presented by the Magi? (*Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.*)

Matthew 2:11

- What is the significance of these gifts? (*These may have been symbolic gifts to show reverence to the King.*)

## Our Gifts for the Christ Child

### LEADER:

Over 2000 years have passed since the night Jesus was born. Yet, we still celebrate His birth. The joy we receive in knowing Christ came as our Savior is shared as we exchange gifts with each other. We also give to the poor and needy. We give to our family and friends. "Wish lists" are compiled and special gifts are selected. But what "gift" do we give to our Savior?

- What is the "gift" that God desires most from each of us? (*He wants us to love Him with all our hearts.*)

Psalm 51:17

Proverbs 23:25

Matthew 22:37

2 Corinthians 9:7

- What else does God have on His "wish list?" (*fear of Him, glory, honor, freely and cheerfully given*)

Revelation 14:7

1 Corinthians 6:20

Matthew 10:8b

- How do we give God these "gifts?" (*Put God first in our lives in all things.*)

### LEADER:

When we examine our lives we find that we are filled with sin and fall short of what God demands of us. His "wish list" is impossible for us to fulfill on our own.

Isaiah 64:6

- How then can we give any “gift” to God when we are filled with sin? (*We do not. Asking for and receiving the grace of God’s forgiveness through Christ Jesus is the greatest treasure we could ever know.*)

Psalm 51:7

Galatians 4:5, 6

Acts 13:38, 39

1 Corinthians 10:31

**LEADER:**

Now take the gift you have been holding and think about all it might represent.

- God’s gift of a Savior to the world.
- The three gifts of the Magi proclaiming Jesus as the King.
- The gifts we exchange with those we love.
- God’s wonderful gift of faith through belief in Christ.
- Tie into this gift the purpose of the LWML in reaching out to others with the Good News of Christ, the Savior.

Go ahead and unwrap your gift.

**The Gift**

- Who is the Church? (*All believers everywhere.*)
- What is the Great Commission that God has given to His church? (*Go, tell the Good News.*)  
Matthews 28:19
- How are we to make this happen? (*Some examples might include: working together to share His Truth, giving mites to support the work of the LWML, living our faith...*)

**LEADER:**

Earlier we read what Jesus called the first and greatest commandment. “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*” Matthew 22:37

- What is the second commandment stated by Jesus? (*Love your neighbor.*)

Matthew 22:39

- How can the LWML Mite Box® be used to show love to our neighbor?

Matthew 6:21

**LEADER:**

By using the Mite Box® you have you can show love for your neighbor. Through the mission grants others are learning about how Jesus came to be their Savior. God doesn't want us to hold onto the gifts that He gives us and not share them. Rather, the gift of the Gospel is for all of the world to hear.

God's Word again reminds us in Matthew 6:21, "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" When we return our offerings to God, we are giving our hearts to Him as well.

**Closing Prayer:**

Dear Lord, please fill our hearts again with Your love and grace that we may be compelled to share the news of the greatest gift of all, Your sacrifice as Savior for all, especially those who have not yet heard of Your love. Amen.

## **GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND ME!**

### **Bible Study Worksheet**

#### **The Wise Men**

- What is prophesied?

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Isaiah 60:6

- Who were these “kings?”
- What is the significance of the coming of the wise men?
- How does this relate to the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19?

#### **The Wise Men’s Gifts**

- What were the three gifts presented by the Magi?

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- What is the significance of these gifts?

#### **Our Gifts for the Christ Child**

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- What else does God have on His “wish list?”

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- How do we give God these “gifts?”

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- How then can we give any “gift” to God when we are filled with sin?

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Galatians 4:5, 6

Acts 13:38, 39

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### **The Gift**

- Who is the Church?
- What is the Great Commission that God has given to His church?

Matthews 28:19

- How are we to make this happen?
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