

NOTE: Though this Bible study can be completed as a personal exercise, the intention is for it to be completed with a group. A leader guide, containing instructions for the gift mentioned below, and a one-page worksheet are available at lwml.org or by calling the LWML Office.



Gold, Frankincense, and ME!

BY KRISTIN KALDAHL

Opening Prayer: The eastern sages saw from far And followed on His guiding star; And, led by light, to light they trod And by their gifts confessed their God. For this His glad epiphany All glory, Jesus, be to Thee, Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit evermore. Amen.*

What does the word “epiphany” mean to you? _____

Both Christmas and Epiphany are times of giving. Each of you has been given a wrapped gift. Please do not open it 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 search for Jesus and to present Him with treasured gifts. With great faith they simply believed Him to be the Savior and worshipped Him.

The Wise Men

What was prophesied?

Psalms 72:10 _____

Isaiah 60:6 _____

Who were these kings? Read Matthew’s description in **Matthew 2:1-12**. _____

The important thing to remember is that they came to worship Christ. They did not know where to find Him.

But Jesus was revealed to them in signs they understood — that was the start. And they came with gifts to worship the King. 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

Reread **Matthew 2:11**. What were the three gifts presented by the Magi? What is the significance of these gifts?

Our Gifts for the Christ Child

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 one another. 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?

Psalms 51:17 _____

Proverbs 23:26 _____

Matthew 22:37 _____

2 Corinthians 9:7 _____

What else does God have on His wish list?

Revelation 14:7 _____

1 Corinthians 6:20 _____

Matthew 10:8b _____

Hosea 6:6 _____

How do we give God these gifts? _____

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. See **Isaiah 64:6a**. How then can we give any gift to God when we are filled with sin?

Psalm 51:7 _____

Acts 13:38-39 _____

Galatians 4:5-6 _____

1 Corinthians 10:31 _____

Now take the gift you have been holding and talk about all it might represent. Following discussion and when directed, unwrap your gift.

The Gift

Who is the Church? _____

What is the Great Commission that God has given to His church in **Matthew 28:19**? _____

How are we to make this happen? _____

Earlier we read in Matthew 22:37 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."* According to **Matthew 22:39**, what is the second commandment? _____

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

By using the Mite Box, we show love for our neighbor. Through our mission grants, others learn 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 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.

May His Epiphany inspire us to be in prayer and in the Word, that we *may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God* (Colossians 1:9-10).

Closing Hymn: Sing or say together verses 1-3 of "As with Gladness Men of Old" (LSB #397; LW #75; TLH #127).

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.

* "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here," LSB #399, verses 2 and 5

Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League in 2005, this study is an example of the wealth of Bible study and program materials provided by the Christian Life Committee and available online at www.lwml.org.