

# GIFTS FIT for a KING

## GOLD - Matthew 2:1-12 Message Reflection Guide

Many manger scenes depict the wise men, or magi, visiting Jesus in Bethlehem at the same time as the shepherds. But according to the gospel of Matthew, the only place in Scripture where their story is found, the magi showed up later. Jesus was no longer in the manger in a stable at the inn, but in a house. Matthew 2:11 tells us, "On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

Realizing that the magi's visit happened later than we may think provides a helpful reminder as we begin a new year. Jesus is always worthy of worship. When the holidays are past and we head back to life's everyday routines, we still have Someone to celebrate.

Jesus Christ is Immanuel, "God with us" (Matt. 1:23), in every season. He has promised to be with us "always" (28:20). Because He is always with us, we can worship Him in our hearts every day and trust that He will show Himself faithful in the years to come. Just as the magi sought Him, may we seek Him too and worship Him wherever we are. - James Banks

### CONVERSATION STARTER

Describe a Christmas present you wanted badly as a kid, but never received.

### GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES - Read Matthew 2:1-12

On Sunday Pastor Jason said: **Acknowledging Jesus as King of your life will result in discernment to make wise decisions.** Share a time you made a wise decision and a time you made a foolish decision.

**Discernment will direct your decisions** – What are the blessings of growing in discernment? How has discernment protected you in the past?

**We need to abandon false kings and submit to the true King.** – The wisemen were able to discern that Herod was dangerous. What makes false kings or idols dangerous to our discipleship? What false kings are you tempted by?

**When we give our best to King Jesus, He blesses us with discernment.** – In what way have you given your "best" to Christ recently? What situation are you currently facing in which you need discernment to make a wise and God honoring decision?

### MAKING IT REAL

The passion of the Wisemen to find Jesus should make you ponder your own passion for Jesus. Is it truly your hearts' desire to obey and live for Him? Would you leave everything behind to meet him and follow him? Is there anything you are holding back from Him? Are you willing to abandon your whole being to the joy of serving Jesus as King?