

And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way."

Matthew 2:11-12



Have you ever been to a baby shower or a birthday party where people gave gifts? What kinds of gifts did they give?

On the 18th day of Advent we're going to learn that in the days that Jesus was born, each of the gifts that the wise men gave had a significant meaning.

It was customary to give gold to a King to honor his royal status. Why do you think the wise men gave Jesus gold? He was the King of Kings!

Frankincense was a very expensive resin that was burned to create a pleasing aroma while worshipping the Lord. Why do you think the wise men gave Jesus Frankincense? Because they knew He was the Lord!

Myrrh was an expensive and aromatic spice that was used when burying a person who had died. Why do you think the wise men gave Jesus Myrrh? They knew that His purpose was to die for us all!

Lots of people have different traditions around giving gifts at Christmas time. One you might not have heard of before is the tradition of giving gifts like the wise men gave. One gift to honor someone's status as a child of God, one gift to bring them pleasure, and one gift to help them serve their purpose.

Not all gifts need to be purchased at a store and wrapped up in ribbons. We can give the gift of our words and our time too! Today take some time to write a card using the designs on the pages provided to someone in your family and say on thing to honor them, one to bring them joy, and one encourage them in their purpose!













