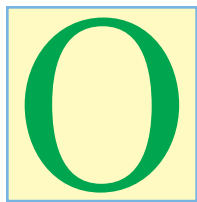




REFERENCES: MATTHEW 2:1, 2, 10, 11; THE DESIRE OF AGES, PP. 59-67.

Birthday Presents for Jesus

Have you ever given someone the perfect birthday present? How did you feel when that person opened your gift?



On the night that Jesus was born, the angels came and sang to the shepherds. The shepherds were the only ones who heard the angels, but they weren't the only ones who saw them.

Far, far away in another country, a

Memory Verse
 “[The Wise Men] opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

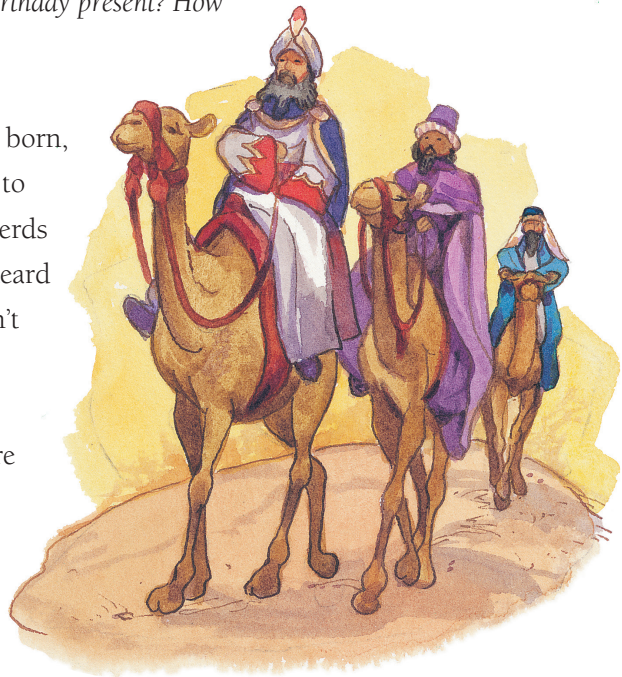
MATTHEW 2:11, NIV.

The Message
 We worship Jesus when we bring our offerings to Him.

group of men were looking into the heavens. They had studied the nighttime sky for years and

knew where every star was supposed to be. But on that night, something was different. There—right there—was what seemed like a new star, a bright star, one that had never been there before.

These men didn't know it, but they probably were looking at the angel choir that had sung to the shepherds. After their song the



angels had faded off into the distance until they looked like a new star glittering in the night sky.

What did it mean? These men studied the Bible until they found special words. “A star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.” That was it! This was the star of a new King! They would go and worship Him right away.

But they wouldn’t go without presents. They would take the nicest gifts they could find: gold, the most precious metal; frankincense, a sweet-smelling incense from faraway countries; and myrrh, an expensive perfume. They were treasures fit for any king. They would be the perfect presents.

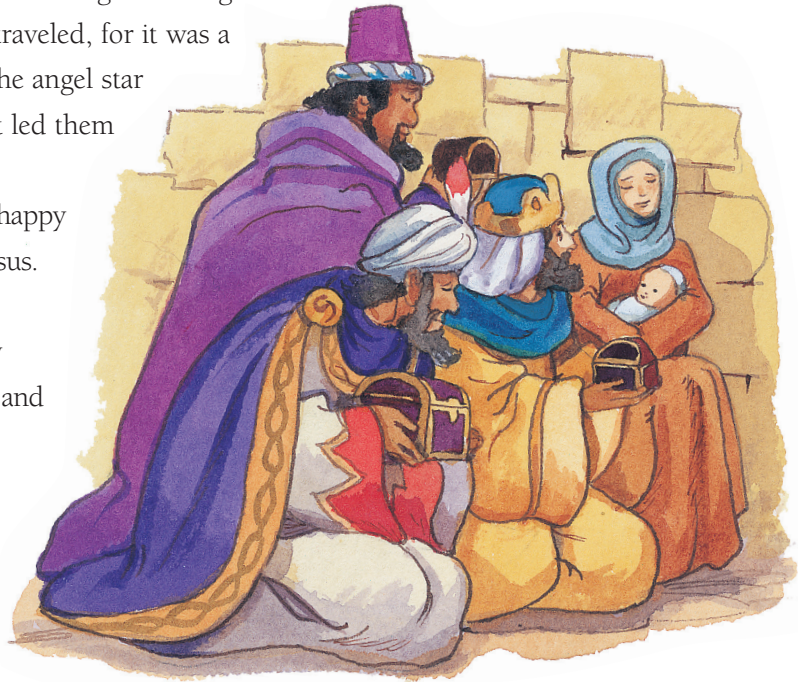
When it was night again they checked the heavens once more. Yes, the strange new star was still there. They would follow the star, and it would lead them to the new King.

When daylight crept into the eastern sky, the angel star faded from sight. Then the Wise Men stopped to sleep. But as soon as darkness slipped over the land and they could see the star, they were ready to follow its light once again.

Night after night they traveled, for it was a long trip. But every night the angel star guided them, until at last it led them to Jesus and His parents.

The Wise Men were so happy to find Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. They fell to their knees and worshipped Him. Then they gave the gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus.

Mary and Joseph were amazed, but pleased. These were the first presents for Jesus, and they were perfect gifts of love and worship.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week read the lesson story and use the following to review the memory verse:

“[The Wise Men] opened their treasures. . . Point toward others. and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

Pretend to take something from one hand and hold it out toward others.

Matthew 2:11 . . . Palms together; then open as if opening a book.

SUNDAY

Help your child give the cinnamon stick (or flower) gift made in Sabbath School to someone you know and tell them about the gifts of the Wise Men. If appropriate, let your child show them the pictures in the lesson story.

MONDAY

Talk about the gifts the Wise Men gave Jesus. Ask: What two important gifts can you give to Jesus? (offerings, myself) Help your child pray a simple prayer such as: “Dear Jesus, I give myself to You. Amen.” Plan to take a special thank offering to Sabbath School next Sabbath. Thank Jesus that you have something to give.

TUESDAY

Help your child draw, color, and cut out a

bright yellow star to remind him or her that the Wise Men followed the star to find Jesus. Thank Jesus for the angels who made up that star.



WEDNESDAY

Let your child “read” the pictures as you share the lesson story. Help him or her identify the people and the gifts. Together, count the gifts and the people. Sing a song about giving. Then, thank God for the most precious gift of all—Jesus.



THURSDAY

Let your child help you prepare and serve a special gift for your family, something all will enjoy, such as a special treat or favorite food for lunch or dinner. Sing a song of thanksgiving and thank Jesus for your family.

FRIDAY

Help your child dress up as one of the Wise Men and “read” the pictures in the lesson story to your family. Afterward, ask your family: What gifts can we give Jesus tomorrow? Set aside your Sabbath offerings and sing a song about giving. Then thank Jesus for His gift of Himself to your family. Remember to take your special thank offering to Sabbath School too.