

Children's Ministry Message—December 2018

A WISE MEN CHRISTMAS

As we get closer to Christmas and celebrating Jesus' birth, our families can get lost in the commercialization of Christmas. The sights the smells and of course the gifts. For some families it's all about how much you spend or how many gifts you receive. As our children have gotten older we have found them delving more into



the secular meaning of Christmas despite our best efforts. That's why we are trying the Wise Men Christmas. Let's go over the significance of these three gifts – so if you choose this tradition, you'll know them and be able to explain them to every family member that asks.

Gold: The gift of gold symbolizes something of great value. It's to be something the child wants – something precious to them.

Frankincense: The gift of frankincense symbolizes something spiritual.

Frankincense was burned in the temple as part of worship. For this gift, we give something that helps with our child's spiritual walk. This gift will vary greatly based on age. Our 5 year old isn't interested in having a commentary on Romans. A few ideas are a worship music CD, a children's Bible, or a devotional book. Be creative.

Myrrh: Myrrh was a medicinal item back in the day. This gift symbolizes something for the body. I've heard it told that the Wise Men brought this gift to Jesus in preparation for when he would die for us. This item can be any number of things: clothing, shoes, cologne, underwear. Maybe your family can try this tradition and help reinforce the true meaning of Christmas.

The Paytons