



Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas Small Groupers!

Most Christians know the story of why we give gifts at Christmas time but let's take a moment to review a familiar story.

I. Read **Matthew 2:1-12**

Despite what the song may say, nowhere do we find three kings. What we do find are three gifts. In this day and age of giving and receiving Christmas gifts, let's take a moment in our small group to understand the meaning behind the gifts from the Magi. Let's also spend some time quietly around the manger and offer the Christ child our gifts.

(It is His birthday and don't you find it odd that on His birthday we are the ones receiving the gifts?)

a. The gift of **GOLD**

- i. What does this gift symbolize?
- ii. Which of the following three would you give gold to: a king, a priest or a Savior?
- iii. All too often when we approach the throne we ask Jesus to scoot over. Remember, He is the King so let's take some time to revere Him.

c. The gift of **FRANKINCENSE**

- i. What does this gift symbolize?
- ii. As we make our way through the Tabernacle, just before we get to the curtain separating the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies, what piece of furniture is there?
- iii. What does incense symbolize in the Scriptures?
- iv. Spend the next 15 – 20 minutes in prayer. Pray for yourself and others.

d. The gift of **MYRRH**

- a. Read the following passages: Matthew 10:38; Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Mark 10:21; Luke 9:23; Luke 14:27
- b. There is only one use for this gift – what was it?

Before closing, what other gift would you like to give to Jesus this year? Share what that gift would be and ask your small group to remind you over the course of this upcoming year and to keep you accountable.

Merry CHRISTmas from:

Dan, Clint, Paul, Carolyn, and Melissa
Your Small Group staff



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The evening of **Wednesday, January 19** will be our first Rock Small Group event of 2005! Everyone in your group is invited! Stay tuned for more information...

Pebbles Pathway is in need of temporary volunteers while some workers are gone for Christmas. Contact Amy at x244.

Christmas Eve Family Service featuring the Rock Children's Choir. Join us this Friday, December 24 at 6 PM in the Sanctuary.

Rock University Spiritual Gifts Seminar is being offered to anyone who has completed the Covenant 200 class. Contact Debbie at x227.

MEMORY VERSE

So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.
Exodus 33:11