

The Wise Gift

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Bringing Gifts to Jesus - Matthew 2:1-12

Scripture: Isaiah 60:6

Memory Verse: All from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord. - Isaiah 60:6

The Children's Sermon

Hey kids! Have you ever thought about what you would give to Jesus if you could? We know about the three wise men who brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh to baby Jesus. But we don't have those things. So, what can we give Him? We can give Him our love, our worship, and our life to tell others what Jesus' birth, death, and rising again means for them. Let's pray and thank God for the gift He gave us of His Son.

Christmas is a time when we think a lot about giving and receiving gifts, isn't it? We make lists of what we want and think hard about what to give our family and friends. But the most special gift of all is Jesus. God sent Jesus to us as a tiny baby, and that's the best gift anyone could ever get. It's a gift that lasts forever, not just for a little while like toys or clothes.

Now, you might be wondering, "How can I give a gift to Jesus? He's not here like my friends or family." Well, every time you show love, kindness, and help others, you're giving a gift to Jesus. When you obey your parents, share with your siblings, or even smile at someone who's feeling sad, you're giving those Christmas gifts and good news that Jesus loves.

Christmas gifts and good news aren't just about the things we can touch or see. They're also about the good things we can do and share. Jesus taught us to love one another, and when we do that, we're spreading the Christmas spirit all year long.

Let's talk about the shepherds in the Christmas story. They were just doing their job, watching their sheep, when suddenly angels appeared to them! The angels had a special message: "Don't be afraid. We have good news that will bring great joy to all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." The shepherds were so excited! They went quickly to see baby Jesus and then told everyone about the Christmas gifts and good news they had received.

You see, the shepherds didn't have fancy gifts to bring. But they gave something very important: they shared the good news of Jesus' birth with everyone. And just like the shepherds, we can share the good news too. We can tell our friends and family about Jesus, how much He loves us, and how He came to be our friend and Savior.

Sometimes, we might feel a little shy or unsure about sharing. But remember, sharing the good news is one of the best gifts we can give, not just at Christmas, but all year round. It's like passing on a never-ending gift that keeps on giving.

Now, let's think about how we can give our love to Jesus. We can pray and talk to Him, just like we talk to our best friend. We can say thank you for all the good things He gives us, like our family, friends, and even our pets. We can also ask Him to help us be kind and loving to others, so we can be like little lights shining bright with Christmas gifts and good news.

And what about worship? Worship is when we sing songs, say prayers, and learn more about Jesus, like we're doing right now! When we come together to worship, it's like we're giving a big "thank you" party for Jesus. We're showing Him how much we love and appreciate Him.

Lastly, we can give our lives to tell others about Jesus. This might sound like a big job, but it's really about living in a way that shows others how much Jesus means to us. It's being kind, forgiving, and helpful, just like Jesus would be. It's about choosing to do the right thing, even when it's hard. And when people see how happy and peaceful we are because of Jesus, they'll want to know more about Him too.

So, even though we can't give gold, frankincense, and myrrh like the wise men, we have so many other wonderful gifts we can give to Jesus. Our love, our worship, and our lives are the most precious gifts of all. And the best part? These gifts don't cost any money, but they're worth more than anything in the world.

Let's make a special promise this Christmas. Let's promise to give these gifts to Jesus not just on Christmas Day, but every day. Let's be like the shepherds and share the good news of Jesus with everyone. Let's be like the wise men and bring our best to Jesus. And let's remember that the best Christmas gifts and good news are the ones that come from our hearts.

So, this Christmas, let's give Jesus the best gifts ever: our love, our worship, and our lives. And let's spread the Christmas gifts and good news to everyone around us. That's the true spirit of Christmas, and it's the best way to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Merry Christmas, everyone! Let's pray and thank God again for the amazing gift of His Son, Jesus.

Bible Memory Verse

All from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord. - Isaiah 60:6

You Will Need:

- Construction paper (gold, yellow, or any bright color)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Gold glitter or gold foil
- Incense sticks (optional, for demonstration only, and use under adult supervision)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into star shapes beforehand.
- If using incense, ensure there's a safe area and method to display it without risk to the children.

Do This:

1. Have each child pick a star shape and write the memory verse on one side using markers or crayons.
2. On the other side of the star, allow them to decorate with gold glitter or pieces of gold foil to symbolize the gold mentioned in Isaiah 60:6.
3. Share a brief explanation about the significance of gold and incense in the Bible times, emphasizing the importance of offering our best to God. If possible and safe, demonstrate lighting an incense stick to give a sensory experience related to the

verse. Finally, encourage the children to hang their stars in a place at home where they will see it daily and remember to offer their best to God.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Gold, frankincense, and myrrh (or representations of them, such as gold-colored items, a bottle of perfume, and a small box or container to represent myrrh)
- A large map or depiction of the journey from the East to Bethlehem
- Star cutouts
- Tape or sticky tack
- Craft supplies (construction paper, markers, glue, glitter, etc.)
- "Gifts for the King" worksheets (create a simple worksheet with spaces for kids to write or draw their own gifts they would bring to Jesus)
- Bibles or printed copies of Isaiah 60:6 and Matthew 2:1-12

Get Ready:

1. Set up a "journey" area in your classroom where the map or depiction of the journey is prominently displayed.
2. Prepare the star cutouts by writing different parts of Isaiah 60:6 and Matthew 2:1-12 on them.
3. Create or print out the "Gifts for the King" worksheets.
4. Arrange the gold, frankincense, and myrrh (or their representations) at a final destination point in your classroom, symbolizing where the Wise Men would have presented their gifts to Jesus.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Isaiah 60:6 and Matthew 2:1-12 aloud with the children. Discuss the significance of the gifts brought by the Wise Men and how they traveled by following a star.
2. Hand out the star cutouts to the children and ask them to tape or stick them along the "journey" area, creating a path that leads to where the gold, frankincense, and myrrh are placed. As they do this, encourage them to think about the journey the Wise Men took and the star that guided them.
3. Once the path is created, have the children follow it, discussing the importance of each gift as they reach the end. Explain how each gift (gold, frankincense, and myrrh) held symbolic meaning for Jesus' life and mission.
4. After discussing the historical gifts, give each child a "Gifts for the King" worksheet. Ask them to think about what gift they would bring to Jesus if they were visiting Him today. Encourage creativity and personal reflection. They can write or draw their gifts on the worksheet.
5. Have a sharing time where each child can talk about the gift they chose and why. Conclude by emphasizing that the best gifts we can offer Jesus are our love, obedience, and willingness to follow Him, just as the Wise Men did.

Snack Activity: Camel Caravan Crunch

You'll Need:

- Graham crackers
- Peanut butter (or any nut-free alternative)
- Raisins
- Small pretzel sticks
- Plastic knives
- Paper plates

Get Ready: Make sure the table is clean and each child has a paper plate and a plastic knife. Have the ingredients centrally located so each child can reach them.

Do this:

1. Spread peanut butter on a graham cracker using the plastic knife. This represents the desert sand that the camels traveled on.
2. Place raisins on the peanut butter. These represent the gifts that were brought to Jesus, as mentioned in Isaiah 60:6 and Matthew 2:1-12.
3. Break small pretzel sticks in half and gently press them into the peanut butter to make 'camel feet'. This reminds us of the long journey the wise men took to worship Jesus.
4. Discuss the significance of the gifts and how we can offer our own gifts to Jesus today, such as kindness, obedience, and love.

Game Activity: Treasure Hunt for the King

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoor or outdoor)
- Small gift boxes or envelopes
- Items to represent gold, frankincense, and myrrh (e.g., gold-colored coins, scented oils, or spices in small containers)
- Printed verses from Isaiah 60:6 and Matthew 2:1-12

Get Ready: Hide the 'gifts' (gold, frankincense, myrrh) around the area with a verse attached to each. Make sure they are not too easy to find, but also accessible for children of this age group.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into three teams. Explain that they are going on a treasure hunt to find gifts for the King, just like the Wise Men in the Bible.
2. Give each team a starting clue that leads to the first 'gift'. Each 'gift' they find will have another clue leading to the next gift.
3. The hunt continues until all teams have found all three gifts. Once a team finds all three gifts, they must bring them to a designated 'stable' area and recite Isaiah 60:6 together as they offer their gifts to Jesus.
4. Conclude the activity with a discussion on the significance of the gifts the Wise Men brought to Jesus and how we can offer our own gifts to Him today.

Prayer Activity: Journey of the Magi: Bringing Our Gifts to Jesus

You'll Need:

- Paper and pencils or crayons
- A small box or container per child
- Various craft supplies (stickers, glitter, markers, etc.)

Get Ready: Before the class, read Isaiah 60:6 and Matthew 2:1-12 to familiarize yourself with the themes of gifts and worship. Prepare a space where children can work on their crafts comfortably.

Do this:

1. Start by discussing Isaiah 60:6 and its connection to the story of the Magi in Matthew 2:1-12. Explain how the Magi brought gifts to Jesus as a form of worship and how we can also offer our gifts to Jesus today.

2. Have each child think of a 'gift' they can offer to Jesus. This could be a talent, a promise to help others, or a commitment to pray more often. They should then draw or write this gift on a piece of paper.

3. Decorate the small boxes or containers with craft supplies to make them look like treasure chests. Once decorated, the children can place their 'gift' inside the box as a symbolic offering to Jesus. Conclude with a prayer, asking God to help the children use their gifts for His glory.