

Strange Gifts
LifeGroup Lesson
December 10, 2017
Matthew 2:1-12

OPENING PRAYER:

May we, the innkeepers, find a place for our Lord.
May we be wise enough to follow a star.
May we be shepherds, open to the possibility of miracles.
May we find a kneeling place in the stable.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.
Enter here.
Enter now.
Find in us the angel's Hallelujah!

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read Matthew 2:1-12.

- What jumps out at you in this scripture?
- The Magi didn't believe in our God, yet they left everything to worship Jesus. What do you think led them to make such a decision?
- What are your thoughts on how the wise men worship and their gifts? How is that similar to our worship today?
- What do the wise men teach you about worship? How can you live this out in your life?
- What is the 'gold, incense and myrrh' in your life? How have you offered this to Jesus? What new steps can you take?
- What does this scripture teach you about living a life following Jesus?

Read the following scriptures on offering gifts to the Lord. What do they teach you about following Jesus? How will your life be different? Ephesians 2:8-10; James 1:1-17; 1 Corinthians 12:1m-11; 1 Peter 4:1-11; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 25:14-30

NEXT STEPS:

- Make an inventory of the gifts that you have to offer.
 - spiritual – prayer, discernment, proclamation, evangelism
 - Physical – any special talent, gift (teaching, mentoring, financial, etc)
 - What will you offer?
- Take an inventory of your house and possessions. What do you really need? Who can use what you have to offer?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

About to embark on a dangerous journey, St. Patrick refused the heavy armor offered him by friends and nobility. Instead, he presented his own protection, a song that has come to be known as "St. Patrick's Breastplate." "For all who have found the Messiah like the magi, it is a symbol of our best protection:

Christ be beside me;
Christ be before me;
Christ be behind me;
King of my heart.
Christ be within me;
Christ be below me;
Christ be above me;
Never to part.

Christ on my right hand;
Christ on my left hand;
Christ all around me,
Shield in the strife.

Christ in my sleeping;
Christ in my sitting;
Christ in my rising,
Light of my life.