A Birthday Present for Jesus

*(from DINNER TABLE DEVOTIONS, by Nancy Guthrie)*

Read Matthew 2: 1-2, 11

Most of us have a little list going this time of year-if not on paper, then in our heads. It’s that list of what we’re hoping someone might give us for Christmas. But isn’t it interesting that at Christmas we get gifts on someone else’s birthday! Jesus is the real birthday boy. Would you enjoy celebrating your birthday at a party where everyone got a present except you? Have you ever thought about what Jesus might want for his birthday – this Christmas?

The Bible tells us about wise men who brought gifts to Jesus after he was born. They were led to where he was by a star. (If you have the opportunity to go see The Star, a new animated movie coming out this Christmas, I recommend it. I was invited to go see a pre-screening and it was delightful – Sue) Matthew wrote that “when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy” (Matthew 2:10, NASB) It’s almost as if there aren’t enough words to express how much joy they felt over finding Jesus.

When the wise men saw Jesus, they bowed down and worshiped him. And they gave him costly gifts. Giving is part of worship. Those who worship Christ love to give themselves and what they have to him.

Perhaps the gift you could give to Jesus this Christmas is to say to him, from your heart, “I’m so happy youth brought me to you, Jesus! I see that you are worthy of my worship, and I want you to be the King of my life. You are more precious to me than anything I own, and I gladly give you the honor you deserve.”

DISCUSSION STARTERS

Instead of thinking only about what you want to get this Christmas, what gifts would you like to give?

Can you think of a time in your life when you felt a lot of joy in finding Jesus?

What gift would you like to give Jesus this Christmas?

WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM? (Learn to sing it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HadjjI6ZvZk> )  
by Christina Rossetti

"What can I give Him, Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.  
Yet what can I give Him?  
Give my heart."