



FYI

### December Library Storytime

Join us for our Christmas storytime on December 12 from 9:30-10:30 AM. We'll be celebrating Jesus' birth, reading "The Greatest Shepherd of All," designing a special Christmas craft, and making a delicious treat. There will be a few other surprises as well! Children age 7 and under are invited to attend when accompanied by an adult.

### Sunday School Christmas Program

On December 20, 9:30-10:30 AM, Children in kindergarten—sixth grade are invited to join us for this year's Christmas program, "Once Upon A Christmas!" You'll hear from Mary, Joseph, an angel, and a shepherd and get to be a part of the action yourself! You'll also create a special ornament to remember the real reason for the season.

## Begging for Myrrh

*Stressed out by Christmas presents? Try this simple approach to godly gift giving.*

By Trina Conner Schaez

If you're like most Christian parents, you enter the holiday season intent on focusing your family's celebrations on the "true meaning" of Christmas. In an effort to maintain some control over the lessons learned at Christmas, my husband and I have come up with a way of giving gifts that seems to work beautifully. On Christmas morning, our immediate family takes time to reflect on why we celebrate Christmas. Each child receives three presents: one to represent gold, one to represent frankincense, and one to represent myrrh. As we open them, we talk about the special significance behind the gifts that Jesus received, and how they symbolize Jesus as King, as God, and as Savior.

### Gifts of Gold

When Jesus was born, gold was even more valuable than it is today. It was a gift that was fit for a king or someone of the highest regard. What a great symbol it was for Jesus to receive such an offering from the wise men, as he is indeed the King of kings and Lord of lords.

This Christmas, explain to your children how the wise men's gift of gold was significant to Jesus and his family. Then give each child her own

"gold" gift. The present should be something of great importance to suggest how valuable your child is to your family.

Gold gifts often end up being our most expensive presents. For example, a gold gift might be the bicycle a child has been dreaming about or the CD player she has been saving for. For an extra treat, wrap the "gold" gift in shiny gold paper with iridescent gold bows or ribbons.

### Gifts of Frankincense

Frankincense is a white resin or sap taken from the wounds of a tree found in East Africa and Southern Arabia. Today, frankincense is known for its antiseptic, anti-fungal, and anti-inflammatory properties. No wonder people in ancient times begged for it. Frankincense was also a sacred substance. In Exodus 30:34-37, God specifically requests that frankincense be used as sacred incense in his Temple and forbids the Israelites to use frankincense for anything besides his religious purposes. God commanded the Israelites to place frankincense in front of the Tent of Meeting to scent the place where he had promised to

*Myrrh continued on back page*

## CMBC Children's Ministry Website

New this December! CMBC Children's Ministry has a new website! This website will contain information about our ministries, as well as resources for parents to use as they lead their children in knowing and serving God. One exciting feature of the website will be a sermon follow-up that Pastor Reid will be posting each week following the Sunday services. This feature will give parents some discussion questions and interactive family activities to use to help their children apply what they have learned during the Sunday morning worship service. There is a link to the website from the church's homepage ([www.calvarymonument.org](http://www.calvarymonument.org)).



## Contact Information

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We're on the Web!  
CalvaryMonument.org

### CMBC Well-Child Policy

At CMBC, we maintain a well-child policy. If your child has symptoms of illness (cough, runny nose, fever) or has had diarrhea or vomited within the past 24 hours, please keep your child at home for your child's comfort and the health of others in the classroom.

*Myrrh continued from front meet with them.*

Years after that temple was destroyed, God sent his own Son, Jesus, to be a symbolic "Tent of Meeting" for all people. How appropriate, then, that the wise men brought frankincense as a gift for Mary's baby. Jesus had become our Emmanuel: God with us.

With that in mind, your child's "frankincense" gift should correspond with the way he "meets" with God. For example, you could give your child a new study Bible, a devotional book, a journal, or worship CD as a frankincense gift. A younger child might enjoy a Christian video or CD of children's praise songs. As a symbolic touch, decorate frankincense presents with bright white paper and bows to represent the sacred white incense that Jesus received.

### Gifts of Myrrh

Like frankincense, myrrh is also a resin taken from a special tree; however, rather than being white, myrrh is a dark, earthy color and has a rich aroma. In ancient times myrrh was used to scent

anointing oils, perfumes, and embalming liquids.

Myrrh was more costly than gold or frankincense because it was needed for the sacred embalming process before a person's burial. Still, it seems strange to offer an embalming liquid as a gift to celebrate a baby's birth. But when you consider that Jesus was born to eventually die for our sins, the symbolism behind the treasured gift of myrrh becomes easier to understand.

I am not, however, suggesting that you give your child a gift suitable for her funeral. Instead, remind your children that even though Jesus started out as a little baby, he was sent to die on the cross to take the punishment for each of our sins. Then, as a family, be thankful for Jesus' sacrifice.

For a "myrrh" gift, present each child with something to "anoint" her body. For instance, you might give scented bath soaps, perfume or cologne, lotion, or shampoo. For younger children, choose colorful bath bubbles or playful tub soaps. To stretch your options a little farther,


consider buying combs, hair products, or comfy towels. If you look hard enough, you might even find something made with real myrrh. Wrap the myrrh gift with earth-toned paper to represent myrrh's rich dark color.

### The Real Gift

With a little creativity, these three gifts will help remind your children that Jesus is our King of kings, our Emmanuel, and our Sacrificial Lamb. When the extended family arrives bearing even more gifts, your children will already be focused on Christ and be able to receive additional presents gratefully and graciously. They might even enjoy telling other relatives about their "wise men" gifts. No matter how many gifts come flooding through your door, the three gifts will help your whole family remember that the most important gift given on that first blessed Christmas came not from the wise men, but from God: the gift of his Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Awana, 6:45 PM	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Awana, 6:45 PM	10	11	12 Library Storytime, 9:30 AM
13 Christmas Concert, 6:30	14	15	16 Awana, 6:45 PM	17	18	19
20 Elementary Sunday School Christmas Program, 9:30 AM	21	22	23 No Awana	24 Christmas Eve Service, 7 PM	25 Christmas 	26
27	28	29	30 No Awana	31		