



the Spirit of Christmas

THE FATHER'S HOUSE

Spirit of Giving
Pastor Dave Patterson 12.07.2025

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

God's love initiates giving and we respond with generosity

[John 3:16]

For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

[Proverbs 11:24] (amp)

There is the one who generously scatters abroad and yet increases all the more; And there is the one who withholds what is justly due, but it results only in want and poverty.

[Proverbs 11:24]

The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.

[Matthew 2:9-12]

And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

1. GOLD = A heart fully surrendered and presented to Jesus

[Deuteronomy 6:5]

Love the Lord your God with all your heart

[Joel 2:12]

Return to me with all your heart

[1 Samuel 16:7]

People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

[Proverbs 23:26]

My son, give me your heart

[Matthew 6:21] (amp)

For where your treasure is, there your heart [your wishes, your desires; that on which your life centers] will be also.

2. Frankincense = True worship offered on the altar of sacrifice

[Psalm 141:2]

May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

[Romans 12:1]

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your reasonable act of worship.

3. Myrrh = our pain, suffering and loss laid at the feet of Jesus

Key Points:

1. ***GOLD = A heart fully surrendered and presented to Jesus***
2. ***Frankincense = True worship offered on the altar of sacrifice***
3. ***Myrrh = our pain, suffering and loss laid at the feet of Jesus***

Applications for the Week:

The world of the generous grows. What is God calling you to give in this season of your life with your time, talent and finances? What would it look like for you to make time this week to follow His call and give?

Discussion Questions:

1. In Matthew 2 the visitors followed a star, entered the house, bowed, and opened their treasure—what do those actions reveal about who they believed Jesus to be and how they responded to him?
2. John 3:16 frames giving as flowing from God's love ("He loved, so he gave"). How does that pattern change the order of receiving and giving in a believer's life?
3. Proverbs 11 is summarized as "the world of the generous gets larger." What observable differences would mark a life or community that has entered that "larger world"?
4. What would it look like for a person to offer "frankincense" as true worship — a life laid down rather than merely singing on Sunday? Describe practical habits that would demonstrate that kind of worship.
5. What does bringing "myrrh" (personal pain and loss) to Jesus imply about vulnerability in community and the role of the church in healing? How would that look in a small group or discipleship relationship?
6. Proverbs 11 is summarized as "the world of the generous gets larger." What observable differences would mark a life or community that has entered that "larger world"?