

# CHRISTMAS

FROM **SCRATCH**

## SHARE

What is the best gift you have ever received? What made it the best gift?

## SEEK

### Giving Christmas Gifts, from Scratch

I (Greg Chewning) will never forget the time that a newly made friend of mine bought me a package of Twix candy. I love Twix candy! This was only our second time hanging out.

“How did you know I liked Twix!?” I probed.

“Because you mentioned it last time we hung out.” They replied.

“Wow! You remembered that!?” I exclaimed.

This is gift giving in its truest form. The thoughtful, generous gift truly is the greatest gift.

Matthew 2.2 presents us with just this display of thoughtful gift giving. When the Magi arrive on the scene they ask, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?” Obviously they had been familiarizing themselves with the story of Jesus. When they finally do see Him, they are well prepared to present their gifts of worship and material goods because they were in tune with His story.

Likewise, as we familiarize ourselves with the stories of others, may we truly listen in order that we may truly bless for the occasion. For this is the true giving of the self as well as the gift.

# SEE

THE GREATEST GIFT, THE THOUGHTFUL GIFT

ARE THE MOST THOUGHTFUL GIFTS ALWAYS THE MOST EXPENSIVE GIFTS? DO YOU HAVE ANY STORIES OF GIFTS THAT HAD A GREAT IMPACT BUT A SMALL MONETARY VALUE? PLEASE SHARE.

THE MAGI HAD FAMILIARIZED THEMSELVES WITH THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH. THEY WERE READY FOR HIS APPEARANCE. THEY WERE READY TO SEE HIM AND OFFER THEIR GIFTS AND WORSHIP. WHAT DOES THIS EXAMPLE TEACH US ABOUT GIVING GIFTS TO OTHERS?

WHAT WE ARE REALLY FOCUSING ON IS HOW TO LISTEN TO OTHERS. WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO TRULY LISTEN TO SOMEONE? DESCRIBE IT!

GIVE YOURSELF A CHALLENGE! THINK OF SOMEONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO BLESS AND GO FOR IT THIS WEEK! BASED ON WHAT YOU HAVE DISCOVERED IN MATTHEW 2, HOW MIGHT YOU GIVE THAT PERSON THE MOST THOUGHTFUL AND GENEROUS GIFT?

Please take a few moments to pray with and for one another