

# Prayer based on the gifts of God

## Introduction

This could be used at Christmas or Easter as a reflection on the wise men bringing gifts to Jesus.

## Preparation

You will need four gift-wrapped boxes in plain gold and red ribbons, in different sizes.

## Development

Talk about how gifts are surprises. We don't know what's inside, but the unwrapping can be as exciting as finding out what's inside.

I wonder what could be in this gift? *Hold up the largest box*

Perhaps it is for all the things that God gives to us. He gives us everything we need. I wonder what you would like to thank God for? As I hold up this gift, you might like to thank God for that one gift. You can say your thank you silently, knowing that God will hear your prayer.

*It may be possible to pass the box around for specific prayer ideas from children.*

I wonder what could be in this gift? *Hold up the next largest box* Perhaps this could be what we would ask God to give to other people, maybe to someone we love or someone we don't even know but who is in need. I wonder what you would ask God to give someone else? As I hold up this gift, you might like to ask God to give that gift to someone.

*If possible pass the box around then put it with the other one.*

I wonder what this gift could be? *Hold up next largest box* Perhaps this could be a gift or a skill that you already have but which you can give to others. It may be a way of helping someone, or something you can do well that might be useful to someone else. I wonder what you can give back to God by giving it to someone? As I hold up this gift, you might like to offer your gift to God silently.

*If possible pass it round as before and place it by the other two.*

I wonder what this smallest gift could be? *Hold up the smallest box.* Perhaps this is the

thing you would ask God to give to you. I wonder what is in this smallest box? *Wait to see if you get answers.* I wonder what you would ask God for, for yourself? As I hold up this gift, ask God for what you would like silently.

*If possible pass it around as before and place it with the others.*

I wonder which of these gifts is most important?

I wonder which we really trust God to give us?

I wonder how we will know if our prayers for other people are answered?

I wonder how we will feel when our prayers for ourselves are answered?

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