

*EPIPHANY TO
CANDLEMAS
GOD'S GENEROUS GIFTS
6TH JANUARY - 2ND FEBRUARY*

**Resources and Ideas to explore with your family, groups
and schools**

Once the gifts are opened, the wrapping paper cleared and the decorations packed away for another year, don't forget God's precious gift to the world. How can we choose to remember him in the new year?





EPIPHANY - 6TH JANUARY

THE WISE MEN VISIT



The wise men visited the child Jesus.

They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

[Watch this](#) video or read Matthew 2:1-12

What do the gifts mean?

[Match the gifts to their meaning.](#)

Gold - for a king - make a crown either to fit you or a mini one

Frankincense - God's presence - pray or choose your favourite worship songs to sing together

Myrrh - for Jesus the healer and his death on the cross - pamper yourselves: do your nails, soak your feet, try out any new Christmas scents, go out for some fresh air, make a healthy meal together or

[try one of these scrub recipes for fun](#)

[A simple explanation of the gifts and more ideas here](#)



Learn about the French tradition and make a [galette des rois](#)

Craft activity - [Make these wise men](#)



Cut star shapes out of card

Then everyone in the family or group draw or write how they will follow God in their lives over the next week, or write a prayer inspired by the story of the wise men.

More here:

[Prayers and a response activity](#)



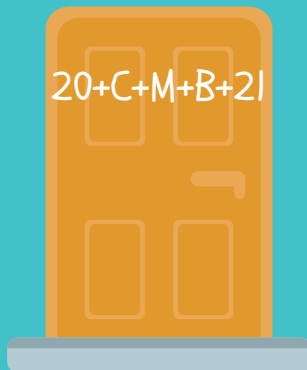
Chalking the door - a new year tradition of asking God to bless our homes. Chalk '20+C+M+B+21' on your door. The letters could be 'Christus Mansionem Benedicat' meaning 'May Christ bless this dwelling' or Caspar, Melchor and Balthasar. Gather your family or church family at the door to pray together.

Leader: Peace be to this house, and to all who enter here.

People: Amen.

Together: May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.

[More ideas and prayers here.](#)



Craft activity – [Make these wise men](#)



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20+C+M+B+21

Reflect Deeper

Read Matthew 2:1-12

The magi were looking for King Jesus to bring him gifts to worship him. They were willing to risk their own lives in order to honour Jesus.

Read Romans 12:1-2

Discuss: Before Jesus came to earth, people's sins were forgiven through animal sacrifices. But now, because of Jesus' death on the cross, we don't have to kill animals to be forgiven. The passage says we are to offer ourselves as living sacrifices (as opposed to dead animal sacrifices). What do you think this means? (Being a living sacrifice involves giving your entire life—your heart, your mind, and your willpower—to God. To be a living sacrifice means obedient service to God. The Bible says it is our reasonable service. It is reasonable, sensible, intelligent—because of what Jesus has done for us.)

As we celebrate the New Year, let us ask ourselves,



What gifts will I bring to King Jesus this year?

Will you give Jesus your heart? (If you've never done so, you can do it right now)

Will you give Jesus your mind? (You can do so by reading his word everyday and thinking about those things that please God.)

Will you give Jesus your willpower? (You can do so by asking him to transform your will to be like his.)

Will you give Jesus your treasures? (You can do so by giving your gifts of money and talent to furthering his kingdom!)

According to Romans 12, a follower of Jesus Christ should be able to answer this question:

How will I serve others in the name of Jesus Christ this coming new year?

Prayerfully think about what you can bring to King Jesus this year. (Spend a few minutes praying and asking God to show each person what they can bring to Jesus.) Begin a sentence with, "Because Jesus is the King of my life, I will_____." Then have everyone fill in the blank with 3-4 sentences. (For example, "Because Jesus is the King of my life, I will show kindness to my enemies." or, "Because Jesus is the King of my life, I will spend more time reading his word.")

Make Epiphany Boxes to store the prayers.

Decorate a small cardboard or tin box with paint, decorative paper, pens, markers, and various other items such as small beads, jewels, gold cord, etc.

Place the prayers into the box and store it in a prominent place to remember the gift that you will bring to Jesus this year.

Pray: "Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to earth as a baby and becoming a man. Thank you for going to the cross to be the sacrifice to make me right with God. Help me this New Year to be a living sacrifice for you in all the things that I say and do. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen."



CANDLEMAS- 2ND FEBRUARY

SIMEON AND ANNA

Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the temple. They meet Simeon and Anna, two older people who have been waiting for the child. Luke 2:22-40

[Watch the story here](#)

Who are some of the older people in your church?
What do you know about them? How do they help you?
Send them a card to thank them.

Light a candle if you have one or [make your own from orange peel](#) - this is a good reminder of Christingle when we celebrate welcoming the light into the world.

If you don't want to melt your own wax*, then use a tealight instead.

[Watch and sing 'This Little Light of Mine'](#)

[Look at this image of Jesus with Simeon and Anna](#) and read these words:



"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss
your servant in peace.

For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel."



What might 'salvation' be in our world today?
For our environment and for people in need?

Make a commitment to pray for one of these things this year.

Add a reminder to your phone or put a note somewhere where you will see it to remind you to pray each day.

*Though it is a great way to use up wax from old candles. [Buy wicks here](#)