



# Autumn 2: Christmas - Incarnation

## Have we lost the true meaning of Christmas?

### Key Terms

<b>Magi/Wise men</b>	Visitors from the East who travelled to find a king because they had seen the star.
<b>Gold</b>	Symbolises kingship on earth
<b>Frankincense</b>	(An incense) is a symbol of deity.
<b>Myrrh</b>	(An embalming oil) is a symbol of death.

### Impact on believers

The gifts symbolise to Christians that Jesus was meant to be different to earthly kings and would be 'king' for all people.  
Many Christians would consider Jesus a gift from God.

### Questions

- What do I feel about the gifts Jesus was given?
- Are they the sorts of gifts I would give a baby today?
- What gifts can I consider which may have a deeper meaning?
- If we celebrate Christmas, what gifts do we like to give and receive?
- Have we ever received anything which had a lot of significance?

### Core Knowledge

**Shepherds:** these were the first people to learn of the birth of Christ. In Jewish culture of the time, the shepherds were very lowly because they were unclean and had to sleep with the animals as part of their job. That they should be told first signifies to Christians that God loves the poor and outcast person.

**Star:** The star led the wise men from a great distance to Jesus. It also portrays to Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.

**Wise men and their gifts:** The wise men travelled a great distance because the star signified to them that a king had been born. They chose gifts fit for royalty and which signified Jesus' life to come (see Year 1 Autumn 2 for more details).

**Stable:** Earthly royalty would be born in a palace, but Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room at the inn. This signifies to Christians that Jesus had no need of pomp or finery because he was not an earthly king. It is also an indication that there would be no room for Jesus in the lives of some people he would encounter in his life because they believed that he did not fit the traditional Jewish idea of the Messiah.

