

- *Matthew 2:1-12 was read, but other passages are referred to!*

The Gift 1: The Gift Game

- Wrapped box of Celebrations:
 - Christmas paper
 - birthday paper
 - new baby paper
 - paper with stars on
 - brown paper
 - newspaper
- Point out that the parcel is wrapped in Christmas paper - have a few suggestions as to what it might contain.
- Ask some volunteers to play pass the parcel:
 - each time the music stops, take off a layer of paper...
 - discuss what is underneath and why that particular paper has been used....
 1. **Christmas paper:** it's Christmas time!
 2. **birthday paper:** Jesus' birthday
 3. **new baby paper:** God's Son was born as a human baby at Christmas.
 4. **paper with stars:** the star that led people to the stable
 5. **brown paper:** Jesus was born into a very poor family, in a stable.
 6. **newspaper:** Good News for everyone
- And the box of Celebrations?
 - well, we'll come back to them later!
 - **though share little box with folk who helped me!**

The Gift 2: Who is Giving?

- Read story of wise men coming to visit Jesus
 - most of us familiar with them giving gifts to Jesus...
 - gold, myrrh, frankincense
- I wonder whether that sometimes makes us forget, or over-look, who is doing the most giving!
 - for the **prompt for the wise men giving is God giving!**
 - God has given himself, completely!
 - he has come, in Jesus, right into this world...
 - and he offers himself, so that we can get to know him
 - become his friends, become his followers, be rescued by him
- Gifts need to be opened:
 - come back to the Celebrations and pass them out...
 - but need to unwrap them!
- Same with Jesus:
 - he has given himself to us, offers us friendship, hope for eternity, purpose...
 - but that gift has to be accepted, unwrapped, explored
 - come and find out more about the Jesus gift at **"Start!"** course in New Year...
 - explain: 6 sessions, no commitment, explore, informal chat