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**"Prepare Him Room:
Preparing for Love"**

By
Tracy Wells

What In this Advent monologue, Cameron wraps Christmas presents and reflects on the gifts the magi brought to Jesus and how Jesus's gift of love is the greatest gift the world has ever known. This is the fourth monologue in the Advent series, Prepare Him Room, which reminds us that as we engage in holiday traditions in preparation for Christmas Day, we are also preparing room in our hearts for Jesus.

Themes: Christmas, Advent, Love, Reader's Theater, Gospel, Magi

Who Cameron: any gender teen or adult

When Present

Costumes Modern Day attire

Props Wrapped Gift Box
Wrapping Supplies (optional)
Lighter if lighting the Advent candle

Why Matthew 2:1-12

How If using as a reader's theater, familiarize yourself with the script beforehand. If performing as a monologue, Cameron can wrap the gift throughout the scene.

Time 3 minutes

Cameron enters, carrying a wrapped gift box or wrapping supplies and a box. If performing as a monologue, **Cameron** can wrap the gift throughout the scene.

Cameron: I just love Christmas gifts. Giving them. Receiving them. Shopping for them. Wrapping them. Taking the time to choose just the right thing that will bring a smile to a loved one’s face when they untie the ribbon or tear off the paper. Handmade gifts are great too—using your gifts and talents to share something with a friend or family member that could never be bought in a store. And I get it—sometimes the whole present thing gets a bad wrap at Christmas— *(holds up wrapped box or wrapping paper)* no pun intended.

It’s easy to get swept up in the greed and materialism that rears its ugly head this time of year. The non-stop ads that flood our social media feeds and television shows. The endless lists of “Top Ten Things Every Teen Girl Wants” that are filled with expensive high end beauty products and jewelry, or catalogs filled with must have toys that spin and light up and do practically everything except clean your kid’s room.

(thinks) Now that would be a great Christmas gift! *(shakes her head)* But I digress. Sure, those things are out there. But if you stop for a minute and think about why we give gifts this time of year, then maybe you’ll remember that giving gifts doesn’t have to come with a hefty price tag and that the most important gift you’re giving is love.

*A beat, as **Cameron** looks at the wrapped gift.*

I think the magi knew that too. Even then. Even before the traditions began... before Christmas was something we celebrated every year. They saw the star and they just knew they had to follow it. That something miraculous awaited them at the end of their journey. They’d heard the prophecies. They realized a star like that was a sign that the Savior had come.

And as the star shone up above and they prepared for their journey, they knew they couldn't arrive empty handed. They must bring a gift to the newborn king. And as the Bible says, "As they came into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. They opened their treasure boxes and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

(thinks) Gold. Frankincense. Myrrh. Sure, these gifts were extravagant. But the wise men chose them not just for their worth, but for their value... what giving them to Jesus would mean. And to them, giving Jesus those gifts meant recognizing him as the one true king. A king above all. A king whose riches were worth much more than any material possessions. The magi choose their gifts with honor, respect, and most of all, love.

Cameron holds up the wrapped gift.

So, as I select gifts in preparation for Christmas, I think about the magi and the gifts they chose under the bright starry night. At the end of the day, giving gifts to my family and friends isn't about how much the gift is worth, but is about showing the people in my life how valuable they are to me. Because love is the greatest gift we could ever give or receive and as we once again prepare for the coming of Christmas, we are also preparing a place in our hearts for the coming of our newborn king, Jesus.

*If lighting the Advent candle, **Cameron** says the following speech.*

Today, I light the candle of Love. May the light of love burn brightly throughout this Advent season and beyond. Amen.

End of scene.