



February 13-19, 2012  
Devotion Starters

Instructions:

Use these devotion starters privately, with your spouse or friend, or as a family. You choose. For families with children, there will be some suggested children's activities to go along with each day. Encourage your kids to read the Bible with you and discuss the questions for each day. Have fun with the activities and find more resources online at [www.firstbaptisticard.org](http://www.firstbaptisticard.org).

Monday, February 13:

Faith asks, hope seeks, and love knocks-Spurgeon. Why does it take faith to ask? Why does it take hope to seek? Why does love continue to knock? What did Jesus say about faith, hope and love?

Tuesday, February 14:

And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him **gifts**, gold and frankincense and myrrh.—Matthew 2:11

What was the significance of each of the wise men's gifts? How did they know that these gifts were "appropriate"? If men know how to give "good" gifts, how do the Lord's gifts compare?

Wednesday, February 15:

Stones or Bread?

I asked for health that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked God for strength that I might achieve; I was made weak that I might learn to obey.

I asked for riches that I might be happy; I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I asked for power and the praise of men; I was given weakness to sense my need of God.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life; I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing I asked for but everything I hoped for; In spite of myself, my prayers were answered- I am among all men most richly blessed.

Yes, God always gives us what's best for us.

What does the above poem mean to you?

Thursday, February 16:

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them.— Luke 21:1-3

What did Jesus say concerning the gifts of the rich and the gift of the widow? What gifts do we offer to the Lord? How do they compare to the widow's gift? How does God's gift of His only son compare to the gifts of the rich? --the widow?

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Friday, February 17:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the **gift** of God—Ephesians 2:8

As parents, we love to give our children gifts. Are these gifts earned? Can we give them the gift of salvation? Can we help them receive this gift? If so, how? Can we earn the gift of salvation? Describe why we cannot, using the above verse.

Saturday, February 18:

<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

<sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.—1 Corinthians 12

Why do parents give each of their children different gifts? Do they ever give them the same gifts and if so, why? Why does God give members of the same church different spiritual gifts? How can we misuse the spiritual gifts God has given us? What is the greater gift Paul speaks of in verse 31? (Hint, see 1 Cor. 13:13)

Sunday, February 19 : Pray with your family for the services and activities of today. Ask God to give you hearts and minds that can hear Him clearly.

