

Christmas Nativity Gift for Teachers

If you were God and you could invite anyone to your child's first birthday, who would it be? It seems the cast of the Nativity gives us His answer.

The Bible is full of people who, though they spent a lot of time with Jesus and listened to His teaching, didn't seem to grasp who He was. Everyone at His birth did. They knew who He was and what He needed. As a helpless infant, God made sure the baby Jesus was surrounded by people who brought love, support, gifts, and encouragement to Him and His parents. There would be plenty people later in His life who were not so kind.

It is special people God calls to minister to a child. Knowing that you have been similarly called, and having had many opportunities to see you with your students, the cast of the nativity has provided an opportunity to remember all you do. These gifts are to thank you for a job well done.

The angel is the one who brought God's glory and His message from heaven to the people.

Thank you for all the hours spent praying for your students and teaching them.

The first king is the one who brought gold to honor the king that the baby would become.

Thank you for your heart that places great worth on children and sees them as the "kings" they will some day become.

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The second king is the one who brought frankincense to equip the baby for His future role as "priest".

Thank you for all the lessons prepared and taught that equip these children for the roles they will play in the future.

The third king is the one who brought myrrh for the baby who would die for his people.

Thank you for your teaching that equips these children to stand strong when serving God becomes hard and costs dearly.

Like small children, sheep are helpless and not experienced enough to see the dangers of the world so a shepherd was necessary to look after them.

Thank you for your role as shepherd, guiding these children in a way that goes beyond academics. Perhaps no role better describes the task of someone who teaches children.

The camel was an animal with some real staying power. The kings needed him to carry all that would be needed over the long journey. Each day the task was the same and each day he did it. Each day he brought them closer to the baby they would worship.

Thank you for many days of grading and planning and presenting. Thank you for doing it again each year.

The donkey is often seen carrying Mary on the long road to Bethlehem.

Thank you for taking the skills their parents have given them and taking them farther. Thanks for time and effort spent beyond what is required to get them to the place they need to be.

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Joseph was the father called to care for a child that was not his own. Thank you time spent learning how to reach the children who struggle. Thank you for time spent teaching life's lessons that should have been taught by parents who did not have time or did not know how. Thank you for extra hours in after school math. Thank you for planning and designing curriculum that lets them succeed. Thank you for loving children the way you would want others to love your own children.

Mary was the young woman whose quiet devoted life would never be the same because she said "yes" to God.

Thank you for your willingness to follow God's call to places that deny you the comfort and ordered life of less faithful servants.

Jesus is the baby who was God incarnate.

Thank you for your faith in God and your commitment to Him that shows so brightly in all you do. It is obvious he makes His home in your heart.

Merry Christmas to you and your family.