



**Generations**  
PASSING ON THE FAITH



# 2023 Holiday Gift-Giving Guide

**5 Questions to Ask Before You Buy**



# How to Use this Gift-Giving Guide

*“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. **And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.**” (Colossians 1:16-18)*

When it comes to our holiday celebrations, is Jesus getting the first place, “the pre-eminence”? All too often Christ is the forgotten part of Christmas. We may sing the Christmas carols celebrating His birth or read the story of His coming in Luke chapter 2. But our hearts and minds can easily get preoccupied with the decorations, activities, goodies...and gifts.

Gift-giving doesn't have to be a distraction from God that leaves you feeling guilty for not putting Him first. Instead, it can be a way to channel honor and thanks towards God that fills you and your loved ones with joy!

## How to Transform Gift-Giving from a Distraction to a God-Glorifying Celebration

There are two main ways you can give gifts so that God receives glory:

1. By YOU honoring God and His Word in how you choose gifts
2. By you give gifts in such a way that OTHERS respond with honor and praise towards God

For example:

1. YOU can give glory to God by asking, “Lord, what could I give that would help my loved one to become more like You?”
2. You can help YOUR LOVED ONE to glorify God by encouraging them to thank Him for the gift you gave them. God used your gift to answer a desire of their heart. What a gracious God who gives us good things even though we are sinful people!

**Use the worksheets below to brainstorm and evaluate gift ideas in a God-honoring way. If you already have a list of gift ideas, skip ahead to the 5-question Gift Evaluation Worksheet on page 5. Otherwise, get started with the Gift Brainstorming Worksheet on the next page.**

# The Gift Brainstorming Worksheet

## Decide Your Budget First

Your primary goal when giving a gift is to show your loved one how much you love them, right? Any gift will cost time and money. You could choose to spend more time and make a gift. Or you can spend more money and buy a gift. But since you have a limited amount of time and money you can invest in gifts, we encourage you to decide your budget first, and then select gifts that fit your budget, while showing as much love as possible.

Your loved one's name: \_\_\_\_\_

How many gifts do you want to give them? \_\_\_\_\_

How much money are you able to spend? \$\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. What could you give that would help your loved one to know and imitate God better?

Where is your loved one at right now in their relationship with God? What might help them take the next few steps forward?

Idea 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Idea 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Idea 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. What could you give that would "pay off" in your loved one's life today, tomorrow, and a year from now?

It's okay to give gifts that bring immediate temporary pleasure. But what could you give that might keep on giving in your loved one's life for years to come?

Idea 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Idea 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Idea 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. What could you give that would help your loved one become more productive, responsible, and effective at serving God and others?

What are the God-given abilities and heartbeat that you see in your loved one? What could you give that would help them be a faithful steward of those abilities? What key knowledge or skills will they need to serve God and others in the marketplace or as a form of ministry? Do they need tools or “building materials” so they can do the work?

Idea 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Idea 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Idea 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. What could you give that would strengthen relationships and interactions in your family?

Western culture is becoming more and more isolated. Family members are spending less quality time together. What could you give that your loved one could enjoy WITH OTHERS rather than encouraging them to spend more time by themselves?

Idea 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Idea 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Idea 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. What kinds of gifts have been enjoyable and helpful to your loved one in the past?

“If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” If your loved one has gotten enjoyment and help from certain kinds of gifts in the past, could you repeat those gifts?

Idea 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Idea 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Idea 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Money: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gift Evaluation Worksheet

**Note: Some good and wholesome gifts may not “check off” against all the questions below. There’s nothing wrong with giving your loved one KitKats and Snickers bars if that’s what they enjoy. Don’t feel like you have to be able to answer “Yes” to every question about every gift idea. Use these questions as “helps” for showing godly love to the people in your life, not a list of joy-killing rules.**

## **1. Will this gift point your loved one back to thankfulness for Jesus Christ?**

Will this gift help your loved one to give thanks to God in general, but especially for God’s ultimate Gift to us in Christ?

## **2. Will this gift be edifying and helpful today, tomorrow, and a year from now?**

In 1 Corinthians chapter 8, Paul says that we can enjoy all things as things created by God. But some people take the creations of God and defile their conscience by not enjoying them “as unto the Lord.” Will this gift edify (build up) your loved one to stronger faith and delight in Christ? Will it help to produce His character in them over the long term? Or will this gift encourage your loved one towards bad desires or addictive behaviors that are not helpful?

## **3. Will this gift equip your loved one to serve and/or do something productive?**

Will this gift encourage your loved one to take responsibility? Are these gifts helpful tools for making money or serving others in some way?

## **4. Will this gift build relationships and community in your family?**

Or will this gift encourage your loved one to isolate themselves in their own little world?

## **5. What results have these sorts of gifts produced in your loved one in the past?**

Certain kinds of gifts may not be helpful, as proven by previous experience. If your loved one cannot enjoy a gift with thankfulness and a clear conscience before God, then it might not be loving to give it to them. This question may also help you to moderate the number of gifts your children receive. Too many gifts may undermine the spirit of gratitude, rather than nurture it.

# Time to Get Started!



At this point, you should have a solid list of gift ideas.

1. How many gifts did you decide to give your loved one? Circle that number of your “top picks” from your list in the Gift Brainstorming Worksheet.
2. Add up the money you’ll need to make sure your “top picks” aren’t going to break your budget.
3. Now go have fun giving and enjoying God’s goodness with your family!

## Need more help? Here’s a list of God-honoring gift ideas...

We’ve brainstormed gifts that we think **1) your loved ones will enjoy** and **2) that will point them to Christ**. We took our top picks and loaded them into the [Generations 2023 Holiday Catalog](#). Inside you’ll find stories, books, films, and curriculum resources that will help your loved ones to grow in their relationship with God and be better equipped to serve Him and others.

Go to [Generations.org/catalog](https://generations.org/catalog) to find your gifts and place your order.

[Browse Our Holiday Catalog](#)