



Generations
PASSING ON THE FAITH

2019 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)*

All too often, Christ is the forgotten part of Christmas. Even if we sing the Christmas carols celebrating His birth or read the story of His coming in Luke chapter 2, when it comes to our celebrations, is Jesus really getting “first place” (the “preeminence”)?

In this 5-question gift-giving guide, we want to encourage you to put Jesus Christ at the top of your mind as you select gifts for your loved ones. (If you need ideas, go to Store.Generations.org and look around.)

If you don't have any gift ideas yet, skip ahead to the 5 Brainstorming Questions on page 4. If you already have some ideas and are trying to make a decision on what to give, then work through the 5 Evaluation Questions on page 3.

WARNING: Don't Lose Your Joy in Giving

The questions you are about to read will force you to think. You might get to the end of this guide and say, *“Do we really have to put our gift choices through a battery of questions? That sounds like work. I thought giving gifts was supposed to be fun.”*

Or you might sweat bullets trying to find the “perfect gift” that checks all the boxes.

STOP. Both of those responses are distractions. Gift giving with Christ as the focus is and should be the simplest, most enjoyable way to give gifts. Sure. Thinking through questions is going to involve some “extra” work, but that's part of giving a good gift. If the questions below aren't helpful, don't feel obligated to use them, but let Christ influence your giving. Rejoice in Christ's love towards you and give gifts to show the people in your life how much you love them!

5 Gift Evaluation Questions

Note: Some perfectly good and wholesome gifts may not “check off” against all of the questions below. Don’t feel like you have to be able to answer “Yes” to every question about every gift.

1. Will this gift point my loved one back to thankfulness for Jesus Christ?

Will the gift idea you are considering increase gratitude in your loved one overall, but especially for God’s ultimate Gift to us in Christ?

2. Will this gift be edifying and helpful today, tomorrow, and a year after that?

In 1 Corinthians chapter 8, Paul says that all things can be enjoyed 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 traits in them? Or will this gift encourage your loved one to bad desires or addictive behaviors that are not helpful?

3. Will this gift equip my loved one to serve or to do something productive?

Will the gift encourage my loved one to take responsibility? Are these gifts helpful tools for the purpose of making money or serving others in some way? Or will it feed their natural desires to only think of themselves?

4. Will this gift help build relationships and community in our family?

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

5. Has this type of gift produced good fruit in my loved one in the past?

Certain kinds of gifts may not be helpful, as proven by past experience. This 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.

5 Gift Brainstorming Questions

Decide this First

A primary goal with gifts is to show your loved one how much you love them. Any gift will involve time, energy, thought, and money. Some gifts will be more intensive on time and others on money or thought. Select gifts that are achievable, but that demonstrate as much love as possible. Meaningful gifts are often not as much about the gift as they are about the heart of the giver.

Your loved one's name: _____

How many gifts do you want to give them? _____

How much do you want to spend on this person? \$_____ - _____

1. What could I give that would encourage my loved one to increased gratitude and focus on the Ultimate Gift, Jesus Christ?

Idea 1: _____ Money: \$_____ - _____

Idea 2: _____ Money: \$_____ - _____

Idea 3: _____ Money: \$_____ - _____

2. What could I give that would “pay off” in my loved one's life today, tomorrow, and a year from now?

(Hint: What would encourage them away from addictive behaviors and to grow more of the character of Christ in them?)

Idea 1: _____ Money: \$_____ - _____

Idea 2: _____ Money: \$_____ - _____

Idea 3: _____ Money: \$_____ - _____

3. What could I give that would help my loved one become more productive, responsible, and more effective at serving others?

Idea 1: _____ Money: \$ _____ - _____

Idea 2: _____ Money: \$ _____ - _____

Idea 3: _____ Money: \$ _____ - _____

4. What could I give that would strengthen relationships and interactions in our family?

Idea 1: _____ Money: \$ _____ - _____

Idea 2: _____ Money: \$ _____ - _____

Idea 3: _____ Money: \$ _____ - _____

5. What gifts/kinds of gifts have been enjoyable and helpful to my loved one in past years?

Idea 1: _____ Money: \$ _____ - _____

Idea 2: _____ Money: \$ _____ - _____

Idea 3: _____ Money: \$ _____ - _____

Get Started!

Based on the number of gifts you decided to give, circle that number of your “top picks” from the ideas you wrote down above. Then add up the amount needed to make sure these ideas are achievable.

Now, go have fun giving! You can find a great selection of Christ-oriented gifts on the Generations Store. Go to Store.Generations.org