Christmas Gifts

By Marilyn Thomsen

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1. Giving and getting gifts remember the languages of love.  The concept of love languages was developed by Gary Chapman, Ph.D., in his book The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love That Last. 1. Words of affirmation,2 . Quality time 3.  Acts of services 4. Gifts 5. Physical Touch.

2. Age appropriate

 3. Gift of Books

* Picture histories printed by photo publishers turn your family artifacts into treasures you can share
* Scan older histories and republish them. The Czur Book Scanner can save as Optical Caracter Recognition (OCR) and as PDFs that can be uploaded to FamilySearch.
* Check FamilySearch books to see if your family history is there.
* Tell your family stories. Make a list of interesting stories. Let your cousins know they might want to help.
* Gather the stories that you feel will be interesting for your children. Digital version let you share any where any time
* Printers are available online, or BYU Press prints beautiful coffee table books. BYU and other printers can do reprints.
* Published histories can be shared with the next generation. Missionaries are told to bring their family history stories with them
* Coloring books are enjoyed by all ages. They can be drawn by children or adults. Line drawings with inspirational stories pass on. Sandra Brimhall: **Coloring books can make the names on a pedigree chart or a family group sheet, come to life. We live in a world today that desperately needs heroes. Our children and grandchildren can find those good role models in their ancestors.**

4. Gift of Food

 FamilySearch.org/recipes: Questions that help you tell your recipe story

* What foods did/does your family eat on a regular basis?
* What foods do you make that your family asks for?
* Did your parents, grandparents, or loved ones teach you how to make certain foods?
* Are there foods your family makes at certain times of the year?
* What food(s) do you look forward to on special occasions or holidays?
* Who likes to cook in your family? Ask them if they’ve collected a family recipe?
* Is there a recipe in your family that you and all of your extended family make?
* What foods do you associate with good memories?
* Who is the oldest person in your family? Ask them if they have any family heritage recipes to share.
* Are there any recipes in your family that require special ingredients or skills to make?

Take pictures of food and document the memories surrounding your childhood meals. Consider preparing some of those dishes for old times sake.

If you have old recipes in your mother’s handwriting, take pictures with your smart phone and upload them to FamilySearch.

Family Cookbooks are wonderful to share, both digitally and in print versions

5. Gift of the Temple

* Temple11-year-old- temple card organizer- buy coupon organizer, label the sections: Baptisms, Initiatory, Endowment, Sealing and completed. You can also put a card to list names that need to be printed. This has been a fun Relief Society social.
* A fun gift to encourage temple attendance includes new socks, breath mints and gum, a temple handkerchief, and a gift card to a restaurant near the temple.
* Distribution center carries styling temple bags that are fun to check out. Or White Elegance, https://whiteelegance.com/

6. Group activities

* Group Activities connect the family here on earth. It draws on the resources of members, so they come to trust and rely. The example and memories shared are building blocks of our family.
* Have family member write Christmas Letters to each other, or Christmas memories. Use the questions in the FamilySearch Wiki.
* Use TheFHGuide.com for activity ideas. Here are some of their suggestions:

 Family History Games Children 3+11

 a. Don’t Eat Uncle Pete <https://www.familysearch.org/campaign/keepsakes>

https://makinglifeblissful.com/2016/03/dont-eat-grandpa-pete-family-history.html

 b. JigsawPuzzleLite\_Game

 c. Map game

 It’s a wonderful Life Christmas Party—memories in the making.

 Examples of crafts using family pictures for wreaths and ornaments.

* Service. The FH Guide has ideas for service.

7. Gift that money buys

 Subscriptions often go on sale in December, DNA, MyHeritage.

Pedigree charts are a wonderful gift…unless it stops us from accepting changes in FamilySearch Family Tree.

Gift of Books and Magazines

 Family Tree Magazine

 Basic research books

The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy by Blaine T. Bettinger

The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy edited by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking (Ancestry): A classic research reference, The Source shows you how to find and use records.

How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records by Sunny Jane Morton (Genealogical Publishing Co.):’

Locating Your Roots: Discover Your Ancestors Using Land Records by Margaret Law Hatcher (Genealogical Publishing Co.)

Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian by Elizabeth Shown Mills (Genealogical Publishing Co.

A to Zax: A Comprehensive Dictionary for Genealogists and Historians, 3rd edition by Barbara Jean Evans

The Family Tree Problem Solver: Proven Methods for Scaling the Inevitable Brick Wall by Marsha Hoffman Rising

If your loved one is researching a specific area, go to FamilySearch.org:Wiki>the state or country research page> look for Further Reading

8. The Gift that the Lord has given us.

 Those that have passed on are doing for us, what we cannot do for ourselves. There are angels around us.