

Gift Ideas For Relational Giving

Here are a few ideas to get your own creative juices flowing!

The gift of time-

Create a fun certificate stating the gift of time you want to give, for example, help with a project around the house or help with errands. Bring coffee, tea or lunch and flowers when you come, be intentional about really connecting while you're together!

Here are some ideas for spending time together:

Wrap popcorn, gourmet rootbeer and a classic DVD for a movie night with a friend

Host Monday Night Football and make homemade pizzas

Wrap 2 copies of a used classic book to read with a friend

Hot cocoa, bundle up and take a walk through the Christmas lit streets downtown with friends or family

Give creative coupons:

Babysitting for your worn out sister-in-law

Yard work for an elderly person in your life

Massage for that person who has been working a bit too hard lately

Road trip to get on an out-of-town adventure with your child

Free point to get together and talk theology and about how God is moving in your lives

Car maintenance to change the oil in a friend's car (if you know how)

House project to help them build that shed, clean the garage, closets etc.

Give a certificate for a day together doing something that person is passionate about-

A new bat and a trip to the batting cages.

A new guitar strap and a trip to the guitar center to play with the guitars together.

A day trip with your cameras for the photographer friend.

A day hike together, you bring lunch.

Things to make with the kids:

Simple Scrapbook with pictures of time with the person you're giving it to, pictures of the kids for far away family

A home "published" story, written and illustrated by the kids, the time you spend with the kids creating it is priceless!

A DVD of your life these days for long distance friends and family

Ask yourself, "What can I do?" And give of yourself! "What do they like to do?" Make time to do it with them!

A side note:

This isn't about creating a bunch of new rules to be legalistic about for Christmas. It's ok to spend some money (In fact, sometimes creating something cool can be much more expensive- so be aware of that) don't create a whole separate set of pressures, worry and guilt by feeling like you can't spend a dime. Just step out of the consumerism, be thoughtful and enjoy the celebration!

Don't forget to visit www.rethinkingchristmas.com to give (and receive) ideas from people around the world.

