

# Christmas Gift Giving Guide

*December 17, 2017*

## I. We learn how to give from Jesus.

**Luke 2:6-7** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

### 1. Give Hope.

**Luke 2:6-7** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

**Luke 2:1-6** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

**Micah 5:2** “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

**Galatians 4:4-5** But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

A. *Hope is believing God was in the right place at the right time.*

**Romans 15:4** For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

B. *Hope is believing God will be in the right place at the right time.*

**Romans 12:12** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

**Hebrews 6:19** We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

C. *Hope is to be shared in the right place at the right time.*

**1 Peter 3:15** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

## **2. Give Humility.**

**Luke 2:6-7** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

**Matthew 1:23** “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

### *A. It is powerful to be present.*

1. God’s presence makes all the difference.
2. Your presence makes all the difference.

**Proverbs 25:14** Like clouds and wind without rain is one who boasts of gifts never given.

**Acts 20:35** In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

3. Your greatest present may be to be fully present.

**John 11:33-36** When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

**Romans 12:15-16** Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

### *B. Jesus humbled himself and came to have a relationship with us.*

**Philippians 2:3-4** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

1. Humility puts others first.

**Galatians 5:26** Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

**Philippians 2:5-8** In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

2. Humility serves others.

**Matthew 20:25-28** Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

3. Humility brings life to others.