

GIFT IDEAS FOR RELATIONAL GIVING

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

Give the gift of time:

- Wrap popcorn, gourmet root beer 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
- Bundle up and take a walk through the Christmas lit streets downtown with friends or family while drinking hot cocoa

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 go on an out-of-town adventure with your child
- Free time to get together and talk theology and about how God is moving in your lives
- Offer to change the oil in a friend's car (if you know how)
- Help them build that shed; clean the garage, clean out closets etc.

Give a certificate for a day together doing something that the 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 the family that lives far away
- 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.