As you plan your gift giving this year, consider these unusual gifts that will mean more to your family than anything you could buy in the store.

Give the Gift of Faith...

For Christmas Day:

Light a candle and read the Christmas story with your family. Talk about what Christ's birth means for your lives today.

Help your family reflect on God's love and provision for you as you enter the New Year. Make a paper chain. On each strip, write one way your family has been blessed. Starting on Christmas Day, remove one link each day and share a prayer of thanks for the blessing written on that link.

Give the Gift of Fun...

Take time during the season to set aside time for fun with your family. Play cards, go fish, crazy eights, old maid, etc. Visit someone who may be lonely this season and play with them too!

Give the Gift of Encouragement....

Instead of writing letters to Santa this year, write letters as a family to someone who needs encouragement this Christmas. For example, soldiers, nursing home residents, or hospital patients.

Give the Gift of Hope...

Focus your family on giving to those less fortunate this season. Collect your spare change in a special collection box until Christmas Day. Then decide as a family where you will donate the money.

Give the Gift of Kindness...

Offer your time or energy to someone in need. Hang lights for an elderly neighbor or wrap presents for an overwhelmed new mom.



Give the Gift of Words...

Share the gift of *the* Word, the Holy Scriptures. Choose a favorite Bible verse and attach it to an ornament, and then give it to someone who could use a gift of Words.