

Festive 'Priceless gifts'

These are some ideas that you or your family could prepare as special gifts that do not cost much financially but can mean a lot to give and receive.

1. The Board Game Challenge.

Do you have a board game lover at your house? Write out a card saying you promise to play a game of the recipient's choice with them when they choose (or best of 3!!) and place it in an envelope (& decorate to make it look festive).

2. Memorize a Favourite Passage.



This may take some time and some sneakiness. Step one... find out the favourite written passage of your loved one. Is it a scripture? A sonnet? Lyrics from a song? A monologue? Or a paragraph from a beloved book? Got it? Good. Now it's time for step two, which is: memorize it! With memorization complete, all that's left is step three: the delivery. Time and place matters to make it a memorable 'treat'.

3. Housekeeping Card.



Does your spouse, roommate, or significant other have a household chore that they just hate to do? Taking out the rubbish? Scrubbing toilets? Sorting laundry? If so, this is a great gift. Give them a card, letter, or note explaining that you will take over that job for them for a certain period.

WARNING: Be specific about this gift... If you say you are going to do their chore, then you really need to do it, so let them know exactly what you are going to do and how long you are prepared to do it for. For a day? A week? A month? Let them know what to expect from you and then don't offer more than you can deliver. This will make both you and the recipient of the gift happy campers.

4. _____ of the Month Club.



What is your speciality? Soup? Bread? Cookies? Casseroles? Whatever it is, you should share it with someone who would appreciate it! A grandparent, an aunt or a friend... Just make them a card with your 'promise' on and you are good to go! Then the recipient of your gift gets something delicious once a month, brought by you. Make someone you love an official

member of your salsa (or cake or chicken dish) of the month club! The possibilities here are endless...

5. When Skies Are Grey...

Is there someone on your Christmas list this year who is going through a hard time? If so, maybe a "When Skies Are Grey" Kit could help. All you need to include in this kit is a bundle of letters or images that you put together into different envelopes. What kind of letters and images? Well, things to help get them through a rotten day... maybe a funny "remember when" story... or an "I love you because" letter... or a "10 Reasons Why You Are Awesome" note. Other things you can include in the envelopes are quotes or thoughts that help you through tough times as well as some photos of good times together. Put something different in each envelope. Try to gather a small bundle (about 10 envelopes) and then tie them up with a bow. It's surprising how something as simple as an "I'm lucky to have you in my life because..." can help someone through a tough day.

6. A Tell-Me Notebook.



This is a great gift for grandparents. All you need is a simple notebook. (Spiral bound notebooks are ideal because you want them to just sit down and write whatever comes into their minds and not worry about handwriting or doing anything fancy in a nice book.) Now of course you don't just give someone an empty notebook... you need to fill the book with questions (About one every three pages so there is plenty of room to write if needed). The questions will vary depending on who you are giving the notebook to. For example: "Tell me about your first house." "Tell me about something you are proud of." "What do you remember most about your mother?" "Tell me about three memorable friends."

Think about what you want to know from the person you are giving the gift to... and then be prepared for some terrific conversations. The last part of this gift is to share with them & listen to their tales they have told.

7. Daily Reading Time.



Most kids read every day... but that doesn't mean that we read out loud to them every day. It can be a real treat for even 'big kids' to have a story read to them. The triangles will count as the punches on the card, which makes the card above a 20-punch card. Then you can ask the kids to redeem them when they want you to read one of their chapters out loud to them, or just feel like reading a picture book together. Special time together is priceless!

8. 20 Things I Learned By...

Is there someone on your present list who is reaching a milestone? Turning 40? Celebrating 20 years together? Then making them something like this is perfect. For example: when grandparents turn 70, make them a simple book with illustrations or magazine cut outs, sharing the ways they influenced your life and what you've learned from them. These gifts are wonderful for anyone who has helped to shape your life.

9. Magic Car Wash.



This gift is good to be given before Christmas... because for this gift you will need to have access to the recipient's vehicle. Take their vehicle, zoom over to the petrol station and give it the once-over, quickly cleaning it inside and out, and then return it to its space before they even know it was gone. Alternatively, you could give the car the once over outside the house, early in the morning whilst your loved one is still snoozing & then take them a cup of tea in bed! Pop a note on the dashboard to tell them about the 'gift'.

10. Read This When...



This gift is perfect for people who are away from you. For this gift, you will be writing a number of positive short letters, putting them in separate envelopes and then labelling the envelopes with when they should be read. The topics of the letters you write will depend on the relationship you have with this person, but some ideas for these letters are: Read this when: 'you are worried', or 'you've had a rotten day', or 'you feel homesick', or 'you miss me' etc. Seal each letter and tie the bundle up with a bow.

11. A Personalized Playlist.



Think back to school days, when we made those fun mixtapes for each other... you know, on cassettes.... How great would it be to get one of those tapes again? Nowadays we can either burn a CD or download a personalized playlist for that friend, sibling, or special someone. Maybe a list of songs for a sibling from back in the day, a woman power list for a good friend who needs a pick-me-up -- or make a running playlist of music that they love. Be creative!

12. Park Tour Permit.

Park Tour Permit

This permit entitles the bearer to tour our local parks to determine which park is indeed the greatest park around.

The parks we will be touring are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Find five local parks and tour each one. (Not all in the same day!) If you're with the children, get them to compare slides, big toys, open space, etc., and decide which park is the best.

13. Netflix Night in with snacks.

Not sure an explanation is needed here... you provide the snacks & drinks & they get to choose what you watch. Another variation of this would be to get a take-away of their choice but that's more expensive!

14. A month or week of meals.



A
Month
of
Meals

This gift takes a little bit of prior planning, but it is worth it, and is a great gift to parents and in-laws for Christmas.

To make a month's (or a weeks') worth of meals, choose meals that freeze well and then for the next few weeks that is what you make your family for dinner. As you prepare these dinners, just make extra... so long as you're already cooking... and when the meal is finished, freeze the extra portions. Before you know it, you'll have quite a collection of meals that you can take over as your present.

15. Favourite Recipes Pack.



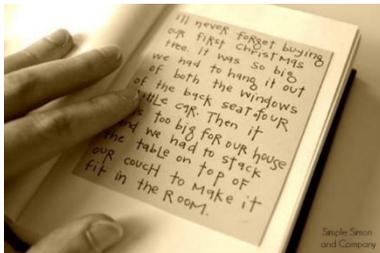
Put together a collection of recipes you grew up eating or which are your favourites or even dishes/items you think the recipient would like. Everything from your grandma's cookies, to uncle's BBQ sauce or a special recipe you found online. Give them the space to add some of their own recipes too.

16. A Personalized Screen Saver.



Make personalized screen savers and sneak them onto the recipient's computer. Then every time it pops up on their computer, they are reminded of you.

17. 'Remember This' Book.



Take a blank notebook and fill it with short written memories of things you have done with the recipient. Nothing fancy. It can be a scrapbook, but you don't have to provide pictures if you don't want to. Just short stories, insider jokes, and song lyrics etc. Memories of times you have shared together & that are meaningful to you.

18. Time Capsule Kit.



This is a good thing to do with the children. What they will get is an empty box (it sounds like a practical joke...) with a sheet explaining what a time capsule is and what you want them to do.

Then, on New Year's Day, fill the box together, with things like predictions, favourite sweet wrappers, newspaper clippings, photos, notes, and whatever else the kids want to include to typify their current life. When it is filled, wrap it up securely and write on the outside the date it can be opened again. Put this away in a memorable 'safe place' until then.