Why do we give the gifts we give?

1. Some gifts meet a basic **NEED**.

2. Some gifts thrill their **HEART**.

3. Some gifts quiet the **CONFLICT**.

4. Some gifts make you a **HERO**.

5. Some gifts **IMPRESS** their friends.

6. Some gifts change their **LIVES**.

How to give your children the five gifts that money can’t buy.

#1

Teach them to **SUFFER** well.
A theology of suffering:

- Life is hard, but God is **GOOD**!  
  Psalm 84:11  
  John 16:33

- Life is unjust, but God is **SOVEREIGN**!  
  Romans 8:28  
  Luke 13

- **Old Testament roots**  
  Genesis 37-50

- **Biblical profiles** – Joseph, Jesus  
  Genesis 50:20

- **New Testament command**

  18 **Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.**

  19 **For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.**

  20 **For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.**

  21 **For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps…**

  1 Peter 2:18-21 (NASB)
1. Teach them to face it; to identify what they are CONCERNED about.

2. **PRAY** honestly about it together.  
   
   Psalm 145:18

3. Help them to share **WHERE** they are suffering with someone they trust.

4. Help them align specific **SCRIPTURE** with their specific situation.
   - Negative Circumstances  
     James 1:2-4
   - Persecution  
     2 Timothy 3:12
   - Bad Choices  
     Galatians 6:7-8
   - Spiritual Warfare  
     Ephesians 6:10-12
   - Character Development  
     Hebrews 12:11

➢ **Life Message:** **SUFFERING** is normal!  
   
   Hebrews 5:7-8
Discussion Questions:

1. What was your first reaction to the statement – "Teach them to suffer well?" Explain your answer.

2. Which of the following unhealthy responses to suffering are you or your children most prone to follow:
   - blame others
   - go into denial
   - anger/bitterness
   - develop a victim mentality
   - give up

3. What is the most difficult internal or external issue you are facing in your life right now? Which of the application steps would most help you grow through your suffering? How will you model applying this step for your children? Grand children?
Introduction: Have you had the MONEY talk?

WHY?

1. MONEY issues cause 50% of all divorces.

2. MONEY will direct the course of their hearts, priorities, and affections.

3. MONEY is the #1 competitor for their souls.

4. MONEY problems are the root of greed, envy, debt, workaholism, pride, conflict, anger, guilt, and lack of contentment and peace.

Teach them to MANAGE their money.
A theology of stewardship:

- God owns EVERYTHING. Psalm 50:12

- God has entrusted His things - time, talent, TREASURE - to us to manage for Him. Matthew 25:14-30

- God expects a POSITIVE return on His investment. Matthew 25:26-28

- God will hold them ACCOUNTABLE. 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

- God wants them to share in His JOY. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

- Old Testament roots Genesis 1:26-28, Job 1:20-21

- Biblical profiles – Nehemiah, Barnabas


"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.” Luke 16:10 (NIV)
How to become faithful in the "little" (material) things:

1. Help them recognize the three purposes of money are giving, saving, and spending.
   
   1Timothy 6:17-19

2. Teach them to commit to honor God with first fruits of every paycheck to remind them that it's His money, not their own.
   
   Proverbs 3:9-10

3. Encourage them to make time with God their #1 priority so they'll know how to invest the time, talent, and treasure entrusted to them.
   
   Mark 1:35

➢ Life Message: Your life is a sacred stewardship!
Discussion Questions:

1. Which of the last two messages "hit home" the most with you? How will you share what you’ve learned with your children and grandchildren?

2. What midcourse changes do you need to make in your attitude toward work? Money? What are they? How about your children and grandchildren?

3. What specific action steps of faith do you sense God is leading you toward in response to His Word? How will you pass this on to your children and grandchildren?

4. Who might help you recognize or re-evaluate your own time, talent, and treasure? What resources might you use?

Recommended Resources:
Crown Financial Ministries www.crown.org
Financial Peace University www.daveramsey.com/fpu
Introduction:

- Someone has said, "We make our choices; then our choices make us."

- Some of our good choices have resulted in a happy marriage, a great job, and deep personal satisfaction. Some of our poor choices have resulted in destroying a marriage, losing a job, and suffering shame and reproach.

- Few things will determine the quality and fulfillment of your life like the choices you make – for better or for worse.

Teach them to make WISE choices.
A theology of holiness:

- God is high and **HOLY** “totally other.”  
  [Revelation 4:8-11](#)

- God is absolute **TRUTH**.  
  [John 14:6](#)

- God’s **WORD** defines absolute truth.  
  [John 17:17](#)

- God’s **COMMANDS** (morals) are for our protection.  
  [Psalm 119](#)

- God’s ultimate aim is to make us **HOLY**.  
  [Romans 8:29](#)

- **Old Testament roots**  
  [Exodus 3:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8](#)

- **Biblical profiles** – Moses, Mary

- **New Testament command**

  15 … *but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*  
  [1 Peter 1:15-16 (NASB)](#)
Priceless: Learning to make WISE choices

1. Teach them to saturate their minds with the **TRUTH**. Romans 8:5-8, John 8:32
   The Bible, great books, CDs, videos.

2. Encourage them to **BUILD RELATIONSHIPS** with wise, godly people.
   Proverbs 13:20

3. Model for them how to **SEEK GOD** for discernment and wisdom.
   Philippians 1:9-11, James 1:5

4. Teach them to monitor their **EXPOSURE** to the media.

   *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*
   Romans 12:2 (NIV)

➢ **Life Message:** Righteous **CHOICES** bring life and peace.
   Unrighteous **CHOICES** bring sin and death.
Discussion Questions:

1. Read Romans 12:2 out loud with your children. Talk about what God's motivation is in commanding us "not to be conformed" to this world.

2. Allow your children to learn from you. Share with them an area of your life where God's transforming grace has made you **holy** and **whole** where impurity and brokenness used to exist.

3. Discuss what activities, people, media, etc. draw you or your children away from Christ-like living. Which ones draw you toward Christ-like living?

4. What specific step of obedience does your family need to take to grow in personal holiness? When will you do it?
Introduction: David… in 2 Samuel 11

- He was a good man at a weak moment.

- He was described as a mighty warrior, righteous king, and "man after God's own heart."

- Yet the words “murderer” and “adulterer” were later added to his biography.

Our children will all make some “big mistakes” sometime in their lives.

The question is: How will they recover?

Teach them FAILURE is never final.
A theology of grace:

- Grace is the unmerited and unconditional LOVE of God toward us. 1 John 4:19
- Grace is free to us, but COSTLY to God. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- The CROSS is God’s greatest act of grace. Romans 5:8
- SALVATION is a free gift from God. Romans 6:23
- Grace must be received by FAITH. Ephesians 2:8-9
- Grace produces self-control, upright, and GODLY living. Titus 2:11-12
- Old Testament roots Genesis 3:21, 6:8
- Biblical profiles – David (Psalm 51), Peter (John 21)
- New Testament command 1 Peter 1:13

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. 18 Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

John 3:16-18 (NIV)
Priceless Christmas
(Part 4)

Gift #4
Teach Them Failure is Never Final

Priceless: Learning that failure is NEVER final

1. Encourage them to MEDITATE on the lives of David and Peter; a murderer, adulterer, and betrayer among God’s most beloved and mightily used servants.

Psalm 51

2. Help them remove the power of the SECRET and condemnation by practicing repentance and confession with some mature believers you can trust.

James 4:7-10, James 5:16

3. Teach them to REFUSE to continue living with a "performance-orientation" in their relationship with God; it is, and always will be, a grace-orientation.

Colossians 2:6

4. Help them discover GOD’S HEART toward the humble, the broken, and the distraught.

Psalm 34:18, John 21

➢ Life Message: Grace means your PAST does not have to define your FUTURE.
Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it so important to get a clear grasp of what grace is and how it is the foundation of our relationship with God?

2. What new insight did you learn about grace? How will you pass this on to your children and grandchildren?

3. What sin or personal failure do you need to "get out in the open" and receive not only God's forgiveness, but experience His restoration?

4. How will you follow up and follow through on what God has revealed to you to share with your family from this series?
   - Share it with a child or grandchild in the next 48 hours
   - Join a small group
   - Review your notes each morning for the next 10 days and act on God's prompting
   - Deal with a "big area" – talk with a pastor, counselor, or family member and face the pain and receive the grace.

Recommended Resource:

The Real God - Small Group Study Guide
Available at LivingOnTheEdge.org - Copyright © 2019 Chip Ingram
Introduction: Questions to Ponder

1. Are you excited about where you work and what you do for a living?

2. Do you sense God has made you for the work that you are doing and that He is pleased and you are deeply satisfied with your present vocation?

3. Do you realize that not counting eating or sleeping, most people spend about 70% of their life at work?

4. Do have a clear plan to help your child discover the life work he/she was made to do?

Teach them to WORK as unto the Lord.
A theology of work:

- Work is a **CALLING**, not a job.
- All work is **SACRED**.  
  
  1 Corinthians 10:31
- Our work is to flow from God’s unique design and **PURPOSE** for our lives.  
  
  Ephesians 2:10, 1 Corinthians 15:10
- **Old Testament roots**  
  
  Genesis 2:15
- **Biblical profiles** – Adam, Paul
- **New Testament command**  
  
  *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.*  
  
  Colossians 3:23 (NIV)
Helping your children discover God’s calling for their lives involves:

1. What is their unique S.H.A.P.E.?
   - **Spiritual gifts** – What are theirs?
   - **Heart** – Where is their passion, their desire, what do they dream about?
   - **Aptitude** – What are they good at?
   - **Personality** – How are they wired as they relate to people?
   - **Experience** – What have they done well and enjoyed?

2. Encourage them to get honest, **WISE COUNSEL** about who they are, where they fit, and how to move forward.
   
   **Proverbs 24:6**

3. Help them be willing to move out of their **COMFORT ZONE** to fulfill their divine purpose.
   
   **Hebrews 11:6**

- **Life Message:** We are **CREATED** for a special work!
Discussion Questions:

1. On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), how satisfied and fulfilled are you in your present occupation? How about your children? Grandchildren?

2. On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), how much do you consider your job an actual "calling" from God vs. merely a means of income? What can you share with your children and grandchildren about what you’ve learned in hindsight?

3. Who are two trusted friends that would give you honest feedback concerning your strengths, weaknesses, spiritual gifts, and passions. Seek them out and ask. Share with your children and grandchildren the strengths you’ve observed in their lives. Encourage them to seek input from trusted friends as well.

4. Over coffee or a coke, ask your children or grandchildren what would they really like to do if money and opportunity were NOT a problem? How might you help them pursue that passion?