



Gift Giving

Behind every item in our home are the hands of others — people who use their knowledge and talents to produce the things we need, as well as all the people in between who get these items to us.

How would your life change if everyone stopped using their God-given talents? Where would we get the things we need, like clean water, our stove, or our produce?

Discover the abundance of gifts within your home — and within you.

What you'll need:

- A glass of water
- A fruit/vegetable
- A book
- A loaf of bread
- A shoe
- Pen and paper



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Play the game with your family

Place the items on the table in front of your children and give each child a pen and paper to write on.

Ask them to write down how people were involved in the making of each item. What talents, tools, or knowledge were required for them to be able to create each item? In what way do they depend on the talents and knowledge of other people? Where did they learn how to create these things?

Once they've finished, ask them to share and discuss their answers.

Next, ask them to go and pick out their favourite possession — a toy, book, instrument, hat, ball, etc. Ask them to do the same thing with these items. Ask how they would feel if the makers behind these items didn't use their God-given talents to create them.



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Play it forward: What did you learn?

To survive and thrive, we depend on the outpouring of other people's gifts. People are making and creating throughout the world, for the world — and it is good! In James 1:17, we learn that “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (NIV). We need to recognize that there are hands and hearts behind the items we use daily.

God, the ultimate gift-giver, created each of us with a unique set of talents, passions, and abilities. Do you love to draw or dance? Are you great at soccer or basketball? How could you use your strengths to help others?

Ideas:

- Host a sports day at the local park. Invite your friends and their younger siblings and work together to teach younger children how to play a sport (or dance!).
- Make something (cards, bracelets, cookies) and sell it to your friends, neighbours, or church community. Donate the proceeds to a charity of your choosing.