

The Sparkle Box

IDEAS TO MAKE THE SPARKLE BOX MOMENT SHINE

Presenting your gifts to Jesus.

On Christmas morning, before any other gifts are unwrapped, take a moment to open Jesus' gift.

Bask in the warm glow you are sure to feel when you celebrate Jesus' miraculous birth, and honor Him in the present with a gift that will bring Him joy.

Say a Prayer. Author of *The Sparkle Box*, Jill Hardie, and her husband, Tim, like to say a simple prayer and have each person in the family take a turn reading their gift to Jesus. If your children are too young to read, they can still share their gift(s).

Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to be a light to our world. These gifts are for You, in honor of Your birthday. For You taught us, whatever we do for those in need, we do for You... (proceed with reading your gifts!)

Share some facts.

Have each family member share a few reasons why they chose their gift(s) for Jesus. This is a very meaningful way to make the gift personal and nurture empathy.

For example, if your child chose a water filter as a gift he or she might say, "Dear Jesus, When people drink dirty water it can make them very sick so I bought water filters for a family in Africa so they can have clean water for the rest of their lives and never have to worry."

Let your child express the reasons they chose the gift in his or her own words. If you decided on the gift together, let your child express why they think the gift would make Jesus happy.

For example, "*Dear Jesus, our family gave blankets to the homeless so they would have something to keep them warm when it's cold outside.*" Another child might add, "*I know you want us to take care of people who are poor so that's why we gave them blankets.*"

Who can participate in The Sparkle Box tradition?

The entire family can get involved in this new Christ-centered tradition! On Christmas morning, before opening any other presents, open up your Sparkle Box for Jesus and read the gifts you've given in honor of His birthday! Feel free to share this idea with anyone in your life. People of all ages, with and without children, enjoy this meaningful tradition!

By honoring Jesus with a special gift before opening your gifts to each other, you'll center Christmas in a profound way!