

Conversation Cafe

Gift-Giving

Gift giving has a key role in every culture. Learning to both give and receive gifts in a new culture helps you to better adjust to that culture. Knowing when, where, why, what, and how to give is important. In Canadian culture, Christmas is the most important time of the year for giving gifts, but gifts are given on many occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries.



Gift giving in Canada is generally fairly restrained. Weddings are the only occasion on which it is always expected that every guest will give a high-quality gift. In Canada, gifts are normally opened as soon as they are received, and in front of the gift giver.

Discussion Questions

1. Is there a polite way to receive a gift in your culture?
For instance, should you receive a gift with both hands or one, should you wait until your guest has gone before opening the gift or open it in front of him?
2. Is there a polite way to give a gift?
What are some reasons why your culture has these customs?
2. Do you think the way you receive a gift is as important as the gift given?
3. When someone visits your home in your culture, do they bring a gift and what kind of gift should they bring? Conversely, what do people bring to Western homes as a hospitality gift? Do you wrap a gift that you bring when you visit a home?
4. If someone forgets to bring a gift when visiting or on an occasion like a holiday or birthday, is it a big insult or is it not important?
5. What are the giving customs for family events like weddings and the birth of babies in your culture? What gifts do you give at such times? Who is expected to give gifts?
Who is exempt?
6. What was the best gift you ever received as a child? As an adult?
7. What was the best gift you ever gave? As a child? As an adult?
8. Did you ever give a gift you would rather have kept for yourself?
9. What's one gift you have always wanted but have never received?
10. Do you like to put a lot of thought and time into buying gifts? Why or why not?



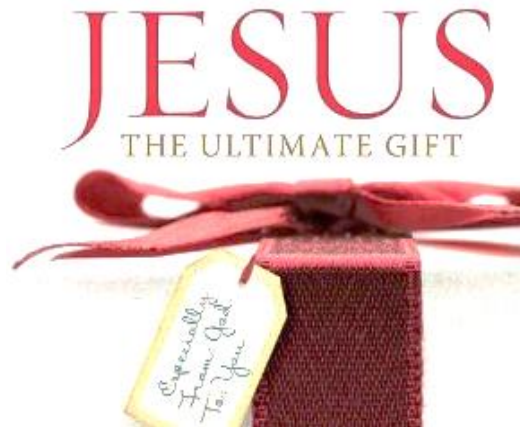
God's Gift:

"God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, (Jesus), so that everyone who believes in Jesus will not die, but instead have eternal life." *Gospel of John 3:16*

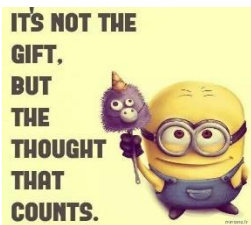
- ❖ If you could receive one gift from God, what would it be and why?

Apostle Paul said: "And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" *Acts 20:35*

- ❖ Do you agree? Do you think it is more blessed to give than to receive? Why?



IDIOMS:



It's the thought that counts –the important thing is not the actual gift but rather the fact that someone thought of and wanted to please you with the gift. *"I don't know if my Dad will like this tie for Father's Day, but, oh well, it's the thought that counts, right?"*



A person who is "cheap" – different from something that is inexpensive. A "cheap" person does not like to spend money on other people, especially when it comes to gifts or hospitality. *"Marilee was cheap – she never bought her family presents, because she said presents were too expensive."*



Someone who is gifted – someone with a special talent, such as art, music, or math. *"Albert Einstein was very gifted in math; he was a genius."*



A gift that keeps on giving – a gift that makes people happy for a long time, or that is useful over time. *"If you buy someone a NETFLIX subscription, and they like watching movies, you might say it is a gift that keeps on giving."*