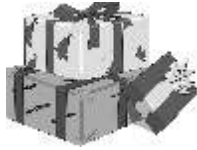


## “Wish Lists”

For many families Christmas is a time of great stress between the Gospel message and the message of the marketplace. We want to teach our children to be generous yet every commercial they see encourages them to expand their “Wish List.” How can we counter this culture of consumerism? Here are some tips:



- Remember that children will say what you say and do what you do. They want to be like their parents. If you want them to tone down their long list of wants, tone down your own list. Let them know that you are already satisfied with all that you have and that you do not feel that you need more.
- Involve your children in determining how your family will share its gifts this year. Often we send charitable gifts to missions, hospitals and homeless shelters without our children ever being aware that these gifts are being given. Include children in making the decision of what organizations they'd like to help.
- Help children to enjoy giving. Encourage them to give from their own funds. Have them start small – even by giving pennies to a bell ringer. Teach them that this “gift to the needy” is just as important as any gift they buy for friends or relatives. Make them feel like they are making a difference for someone else.

Giving feels good and the holiday season is a great time to teach children about generosity.

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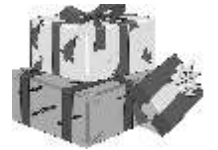
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