

## Introduction

How many here love giving gifts? Receiving gifts?  
As a mother we have the opportunity to give lots of gifts to our children  
Some of my favorites over the years

In my journey as a mother, I have given a lot of gifts to my children but as I am navigating moving into the empty nest season of mothering...encore season of mothering, I am realizing more and more that the greatest gift I give my children is the gift of ME!

- my love
- my presence
- my support
- my SHAPE - spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality & life experiences

**READ: This is what I know to be true....“What I do for my children changes; who I am for my children only grows stronger!”**

**READ: On this mother's day weekend, I want to share personally about the gifts that I have given my children by my BEING....some of these I have done better than others; some I have failed miserably in one season and crushed in another season; but I want to share them with my mom girlfriends tonight and in sharing them I want to invite each mother here/online to reflect personally on the gifts that you are giving to your own family by who you are! (Dads, future moms & dads)**

My Top 10 Gifts List: (not prioritized & the assumption is loving Jesus as my #1)

1. Be crazy about their dad - prioritize your husband \*\*clarifier for single moms, remarried, blended families, etc
2. Be a woman of my word - mean what you say, follow through every time
3. Be a speaker of life - Use your voice to speak life, build
4. Be joyful - Choose joy - set tone of home
5. Be authentic - same everywhere, all the time
6. Be present
7. Be able to see the individual person - parent individually; avoid pack parenting

Gifts We Give  
Mother's Day 2023  
Website Notes

8. Be virtuous -24 virtues of Jesus reflected in my life as a result of my own personal transformation to look and be more like Jesus
9. Be willing to change with the seasons - know when to hold on and when to let go
10. Be realistic - manage my own expectations; disappointment is a result of unmet expectations

**READ: On this mother's day weekend....ask yourself "mom"...what am I being for my children? Not doing....what am I being for my children?**

For the sake of time....encourage us today in 3 of these gifts!

**Gift #1: Be crazy about their dad! Prioritize your husband**

- Biblical priorities - God, spouse, children, job, ministry/calling
- family begins with marriage - not children - children expand the family
- not your marriage....your husband....him as a person!
- this gift keeps on giving through your child's entire life!

Col 3:14 - Above all, clothe yourselves with love which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

John 15:13 - There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

**Practicals**

1. **be crazy excited about your spouse**
2. **verbalize it in front of kids, extended family and friends**
3. **build them up as a hero in your family**
4. **operate with a united front at all times**
5. **demonstrate physical affection in front of kids**
6. **grow in intimacy**

**READ: This Mother's Day give your children the gift of a mom who is crazy about dad!**

**Gift #2: Be Authentic (genuine, true, real)**

- same everywhere, always
- authentic = you are true to your own personality, values regardless of the pressure that you are under to act otherwise;

your values, ideals and actions align AND  
Your private, personal and public self align

**Prov. 12:22** Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are His delight

**1 John 3:18** Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth

**James 1:22** but be doers of the word and not hearers only deceiving yourselves

**Luke 8:17** for nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.

**Matthew 23:27-28.** Woe to you....beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones.

**Ps. 51:6** Behold you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart

**Practicals**

- 1. are you truly who you represent yourself to be?**
- 2. do you behave the same wherever you go?**
- 3. do you talk the same regardless of who you are speaking to?**
- 4. Do your actions (lifestyle) match your values? Do you watch shows that match your values, listen to music that matches your values; do you act different at church than at work or at home, etc?**
- 5. understand that you "represent"...yourself, your family, your God...and model this for your kids**

**READ: This Mother's Day give your children the gift of a mom who is authentic**

**Gift #3: Be willing to change with the seasons**

- women's lives marked by seasons...college/YA years, married no kids, married w/kids, empty nest
- season changes imply holding on and letting go....and needing the wisdom to know when and how!

Eccl. 3:1 There is an appointed time for everything and an appointed time for every event under heaven...

Eccl 3:6 A right time to hold on and a right time to let go (msg)  
(Empty Nest, Full Life by Jill Savage)

Every season has blessings and challenges! Always!  
I have grown the most as I have learned to change with the seasons!

Give ourselves grace..as soon as you figure one season out, it changes...  
but who you are can remain constant amidst the changing seasons

**Practicals**

- 1. Am I being rigid on things I COULD be flexible on?**
- 2. Am I saying "no" for my own convenience and not based on what's best for my child?**
- 3. Am I elevating traditions/expectations above relationship (which is the whole point anyways)?**

**READ: This Mother's Day give your children the gift of a mom who is willing to change with the seasons.**

**Closing - You are the greatest gift you will ever give your kids! What are the gifts you are giving them through who you are....and let's believe for God to continue to grow each one of us in these areas so that we can BE a blessing to our children for all of their lives!**