

## Presents

*(Needed: a wrapped present)*

What is this, boys and girls? *(Hold up wrapped present.)* That's right. It is a present. I am going to talk to you today about presents.

By now, there are probably at least a few presents popping up under your Christmas tree. I don't know about you, but I like to find the presents for me and hold them and shake them and wonder what's inside. Then when Christmas comes and it's time to open the presents, I like to rip open the wrapping paper as fast as I can and see what I got. But I also like to find presents for other people. I like to get something that I know my friend or family member will really enjoy. I have fun putting wrapping paper around it and maybe adding a ribbon or a bow. Then I get excited to see the expressions on people's faces when they open presents from me.

The presents we give and receive at Christmas are reminders to us of the greatest Gift of all that comes at Christmas. The Gift of Jesus, who was wrapped not in paper and ribbons and a bow, but in swaddling clothes, was laid not under a beautiful tree, but in a lowly manger. We share this Gift of Jesus every time we show forgiveness to one another and each time we say "I love you!" to the people around us. And the Gift of Jesus never gets old or wears out or runs out of batteries. The Gift of Jesus lasts forever.

When you wrap presents for people this week and write name tags for your packages, think of a special message about Jesus that you can write on the name tag or on the present itself or, if you can't write yet, try saying "Jesus is the Greatest Gift of all" when you give a gift to someone.