

MAKE A GIFT DAY

What is “Make a Gift Day”?

At the simplest level, it is an opportunity for making gift. As parents or grandparents, you could spend time with your grandchildren in helping them make and prepare gifts for birthdays or holidays. You could use “Make a Gift Day” as a relational building experience in your neighborhood or community either for children, adults, or families. It could be a “drop in” day or one or more time focused days, depending on what gifts you decide to make.

When our church did this, we encouraged whole families from the community to come and participate. That way, we did not need to provide childcare. We wanted to have something for everyone to do all the time, so we had a game area and a play area set up as well as all of the various gifts that could be made. We did our “Make a Gift Day” before Christmas, so we had Christmas music playing and Christmas snacks available. We also had a gift wrap and card making area set up. One of our special gift making centers was a nativity set that families could take make and take home to use with Grandma’s [Christmas advent book](#).

Where do you get gifts to make?

We planned for this event at least 6 months in advance. We encouraged individuals and families to think of their own crafts/gifts that they could help others make and to “host” or supervise a table or area. There was no limit on the number of each of the gift items. They would be made available until the supplies ran out. We let each other know what items could be saved up and donated as most of our gifts were “homemade”. We were very resourceful and generous and were able to do this without charge to anyone who came to make gifts.

Some of the gift ideas we had were:

Nativity sets	Wooden boxes
Suncatcher Cards	Wrapping paper & cards
Birdhouses	Mini Shelves
Potholders	Bean bags
Necklaces & bracelets	Crayon Candle lights
Kitchen magnets	Wall hanging
Tote bags	Barrette holders
Yarn dolls	Wind chimes
Yarn covered hangers	

Some of our donated items for the gifts were:

Wood pieces of any kind or size	Fabric
TP rolls	Paints of any kind
Old crafts items of any kind – lace, beads, felt, fabric paints, bits of yarn, etc.	
Metal coat hangers	

What was our process?

During the actual day, we encouraged everyone to decide who they were giving the gift to before they began making it. This gave purpose to their choices. Then we talked about how it could be used while it was being made. We emphasized quality of gift over speed of making it because God gave us His best gift (Jesus) and we want to give our best too! We did not limit the gifts that could be made except by the materials that were available. We did limit what could be done without adults available to help based on the difficulty of making each gift.

Grandma hopes you will enjoy the making and giving of gifts!