

Gadgets and Godly Gifts

If you've been looking for something special to do for a friend who's getting married, consider presenting her with a Bible. This is one way you can honor a friend who's engaged.

"A Bible? Why not a toaster?" you may be asking. Bible presentations are a tradition, but that's not the main reason to have one. When you present a Bible to an engaged friend, you will be affirming that God's Word contains some basic principles that can lead to a successful marriage. You will also be commissioning the engaged couple to pass on the new Bible to someone who comes to their home who is not familiar with God's Word.

This occasion should accomplish two things. It should provide a pause during pre-wedding festivities for the couple and their friends to reflect on God's blessings and what He wants in the marriage relationship. It should also be a time to remind the couple that a Christian home is something God can use as He brings other people to Himself.

Getting ready

Like anything you do, honoring a friend getting married takes planning. Here are some things you need to do in advance:

1. Arrange a date, time, and place. This can be done after a regular church activity, or you may want to plan a separate occasion. Be sure to check the bride's calendar.

2. Ask the bride if she would like to include her fiancé. If so, ask him to come.

3. Decide if you would like refreshments (or rather if you need them), and make arrangements.

4. Purchase a Bible as a gift. The Bible should be one that the couple can give away to a non-Christian friend who comes to their home. Get a translation that's easy to read.

5. Ask friends of the bride to be a part of this occasion. Instead of a formal ceremony or program, the occasion will take the form of a gadget shower—of sorts. Each woman should bring a gadget-type gift and a Scripture verse (godly gift) that relates to the gadget gift. The idea is for the gadget to remind the bride of scriptural admonitions as she uses them in her home.

As the bride opens each gift, the person who gave it should briefly describe just what biblical instruction it should bring to mind. Then she should read the appropriate Scripture verse. She may want to attach a copy of the verse to the gadget in a permanent way, if possible.

Need an example? If you give the bride a yardstick, you would tell her after she opened it that it was to remind her to measure up to Christ's plan for her life. Then you would read 2 Peter 3:18. In the case of the yardstick, you could print the verse on a card and glue or tape it to the wrong side of the stick.

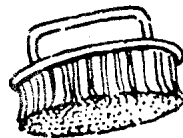
Pass around the following list of gadget gifts and assorted Scripture verses so those who plan to come can pick out their gifts. Encourage creativity. Remind women that any gadget that can relate to a scriptural principle would be appropriate; they need not be limited to the list here.

After all the gadgets are opened and the godly gifts are relayed, then you, or the person in charge, should present the Bible. Use the ideas that follow under "Presenting the Bible" for remarks at that time.

Before you serve refreshments, call for a time of prayer for the couple as they establish their Christian home. Ask any who wish to pray aloud to do so.

Gadgets and Godly gifts

Scrub brush: Clean away unrighteousness; accept forgiveness—I John 1:9



Fruit basket: Contain the fruit of the Spirit in your life—Galatians 5:22-23



Vegetable peeler: Peel off your old self—Ephesians 4:22-24



Refrigerator magnet. Adhere
only to Christ—John 15:7



Calendar: Make good use of
your time—Colossians 4:5



Emergency candles and
matches: Don't be afraid of
the dark—Psalm 27:1



Yardstick: Measure up to
Christ's plan for you—
2 Peter 3:18



Outdoor thermometer: Register
hot, not cold in your spiritual
life—Revelation 3:15-16



Kitchen knife: Cut these things
out of your life—
Colossians 3:8-10



Clay pots: Don't think you're
better than you are—
2 Corinthians 4:7



Budget book: Give generously with God in charge of your finances—2 Corinthians 9:7-8



Saltshaker: Allow yourself to be salt; it's necessary—Mark 9:50



Potted plant (vine): Be ready to be pruned—John 15:1-8



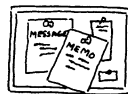
Serving spoon: Serve others as you see needs—1 John 3:17-8



Candy jar: Share goodness, sweetness, not bitterness Proverbs 14:10



Message board: Don't say anything you'd be ashamed of—Colossians 4:6



Presenting the Bible



Say something like this in presenting the Bible to the bride:

All of the godly gifts we bring you are in this Bible. As you use the gadget gifts around your house, let them remind you of these godly gifts. These gadgets will someday wear out, get lost, or be no longer useful. But godly gifts should be with you throughout your marriage.

As you establish your home, both in the physical dwelling in which you live as well as the emotional climate of your life together, we hope Christ will reign as Lord of your home and your lives.

So many marriages today are in trouble. We challenge you to establish the kind of Christian marriage that will point other people to Christ.

That's why we're presenting you with this Bible. No, we're loaning it to you, entrusting it to you. It's really not for you but for some non-Christian friend who comes into your life. We want you to give this Bible away so that the godly gifts of the Word can make their place in someone else's life.

We're delighted that you are taking this step in your life. We pray that your marriage will become all that God intends it to be.