

**Theme**

Jesus is God's gift to us.

**Object**

A calendar

**Scripture**

Matthews 11:2-11

Look at this calendar! Can you believe it? We are only a few days from Christmas! (Count the days remaining until Christmas.) Have you finished all of your Christmas shopping? I haven't!

I'm hoping that you can help me figure out what some of the most popular gifts are this year. Will you help me?

Raise your hand if you're hoping to get a doll or stuffed animal for a Christmas gift.

Raise your hand if you're hoping to get a super-hero toy for a Christmas gift.

Raise your hand if you're hoping to get an electronics or techy toy for a Christmas gift.

Raise your hand if you're hoping to get socks for a Christmas gift.

Those are a lot of gifts that we're all hoping for--except for the socks. Thanks for helping me.

Those may be some of the most popular gifts that children will find under their Christmas tree this year, but they don't compare with the gifts we receive from the Christ of Christmas.

In our Bible lesson today we learn that John, even though he was in prison, was hearing about all the wonderful things Jesus was doing. He sent a message to Jesus by some of his friends. "Ask Jesus if he is the Messiah we have been expecting, or should we continue to watch for someone else?"

When they asked Jesus that question, he answered, "Go back to John and tell him about the things you hear and see: The blind can see. The crippled can walk. People with harmful skin diseases are healed. The deaf can hear. The dead are raised to life. And the Good News is told to the poor."

If you were blind, what better gift could you receive than to be able to see? If you were crippled, what better gift could you receive than to be able to walk? If you were dead, what better gift could you receive than the gift of life? Jesus is God's gift to us. Jesus came to earth to give us life -- eternal life! What a gift!

**Prayer of the Day:**

Dear God, thank You for Jesus! We know that every good gift we receive comes from you and the greatest gift is eternal life brought down to us through your Son. Father, we thank you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

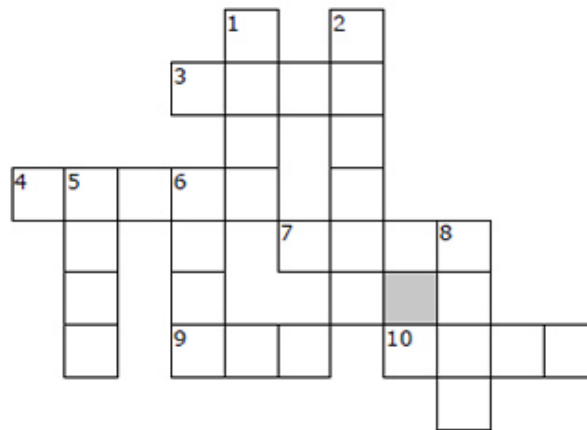
Thank You God For Jesus  
Coloring Page



The Gifts that Jesus Brings  
Crossword

# The Gifts that Jesus Brings

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.  
Matthew 11:5 (NIV)



ACROSS

- 3. To receive sound using your ears
- 4. Unable to see
- 7. Something that is pleasant or enjoyable
- 9. To be aware of what is around you by using your eyes
- 10. To move along by putting one foot in front of the other

DOWN

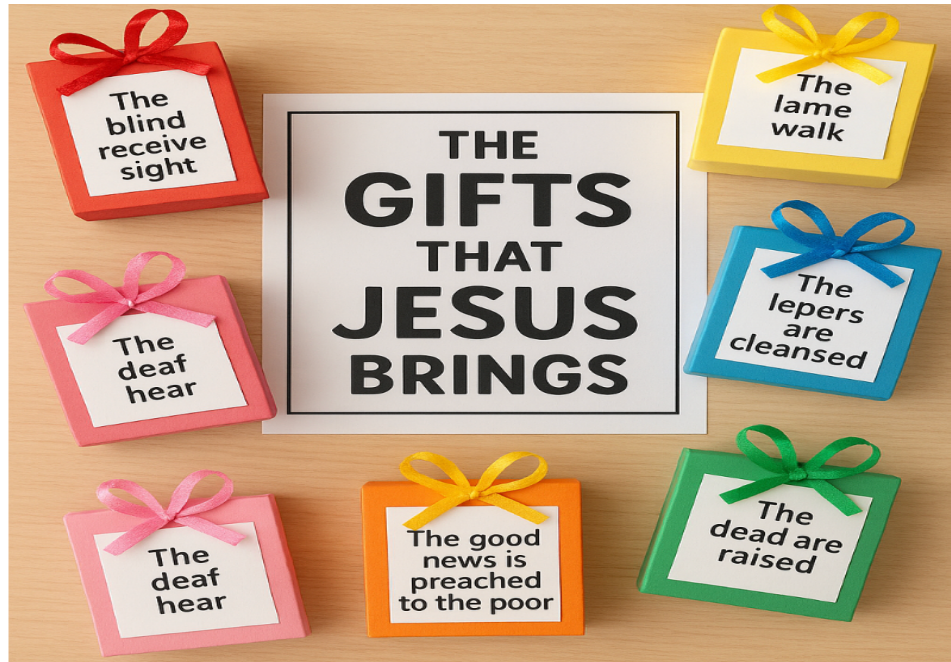
- 1. Not living
- 2. A place where criminals are forced to live as a punishment
- 5. Unable to walk correctly because of injury to or weakness in the legs or feet
- 6. Information or reports about recent events
- 8. Unable to hear

DEAF	SEE	NEWS	GOOD	WALK
HEAR	DEAD	BLIND	PRISON	LAME

## Sunday School Crafts Activities: “Unwrapping the gifts Jesus Brings”

### Purpose:

To help kids understand the “gifts” Jesus lists in His answer to John’s disciples (healing, hope, good news, restoration).



### Materials

- 6 small boxes or gift bags (or envelopes)
- Paper slips
- Markers
- A Bible
- Optional: tissue paper or ribbon

### Preparation

Write one “gift” inside each box/bag based on Matthew 11:4–5:

1. **“The blind receive sight”**
2. **“The lame walk”**
3. **“The lepers are cleansed”**
4. **“The deaf hear”**
5. **“The dead are raised”**
6. **“The good news is preached to the poor”**

Place each slip in a *gift bag/box*.

## Activity Steps

1. **Circle Time:**  
Kids sit in a circle. Put the gifts in the center.
2. **Choose a Gift:**  
One child picks a gift and opens it.
3. **Read the Gift Aloud:**  
The child reads what's written inside (or a helper reads it for them).
4. **Act It Out:**  
The group must *act out* that gift for 5–10 seconds.
  - Blind receiving sight → pretend to see for the first time
  - Lame walking → pretend to get up and walk
  - Deaf hearing → cup your ear and smile
  - Good news → pretend to cheer or share good news
5. **Repeat** until all the Jesus-gifts are opened.

## Discussion (Short and Simple)

Ask the group:

- “Why did Jesus talk about these gifts when John asked who He was?”
- “What do these gifts show us about Jesus?”
- “Which gift means the most to you today?”

Key point to highlight:

**Jesus' works are His gifts—they show He is the Messiah and that He brings healing, hope, and Good News to everyone.**

## Lesson from the crafts activity:

- Who John the Baptist was
- What “repent” means
- What it means to prepare our hearts
- Visualizes “making straight paths”
- Helps kids reflect on behavior changes