**What Can I Give?**

**A Dramatic Dialogue with Children for Christmas Eve**

**Reverend Mindi Welton**

CAST:

 Reader 1 and 2

 Children

PROPS:

Five boxes wrapped ahead of time, four of them each contain a single word on a piece of paper, HOPE, PEACE, JOY, FAITH.

The fifth one contains a piece of paper with the word LOVE and Hershey’s Kisses and Hugs.

Be sure to tag the boxes in a way so you can open them in order.

Reader 1: Wow, isn’t this exciting? It’s Christmas Eve! Are you excited? Can you wait until tomorrow morning? I can’t wait! I can’t wait to open up the presents and see what has been given to me!

Reader 2: Is that all you can think about—presents? Don’t you know the true meaning of Christmas? Don’t you know that we’re really celebrating the birth of Jesus?

Reader 1: Of course I know what we’re celebrating. We’re celebrating a very special gift!

Reader 2: Well, I guess that’s true—Jesus is our gift from God. Every year we remember on Christmas Day that Jesus was born, and that Jesus continues to be our gift. God’s gift of love through Jesus Christ continues to be with us, and I guess that’s like a present, in a way.

Reader 1: Exactly! I can’t wait to see what presents have been given to me!

Reader 2: But isn’t Jesus more important than presents?

Reader 1: Well, you’ll see. I think we should open a present early, don’t you?

*(Gives a child the first box filled with HOPE)*.

Wow, look at what has been given to us! HOPE is such a great gift. It helps me to look forward to all that God has in store for us.

Reader 2: Now that *is* a good gift! That’s a better present than I could ever buy at the store for anyone.

Reader 1: Let’s open up another one.

*(Gives a child the box filled with PEACE)*

Reader 2: That’s such a precious and fragile gift. The gift of peace means that no matter what happens, we will still be friends and brothers and sisters in Christ because Christ’s peace dwells in us. Why don’t we share this gift with everyone? Tell someone here, “The Peace of Christ be with you” and shake their hand or give them a hug. Why don’t we all go pass the gift of Christ’s peace?

*(Start with the children and “Pass the Peace” around)*

Reader 1: This is so exciting—do you think we could open up another gift?

Reader 2: I think we should.

*(Gives a child the box filled with FAITH)*

This is a really great gift. Faith means that we know that God is always with us. It is a gift that no one can take away.

Reader 1: Let’s open another one!

*(Gives a child the box filled with JOY)*

Now this is a gift I really, really like! Is Joy one of your favorite gifts? Joy is the gift of happiness that God gives us. Joy is what causes us to sing when we are happy, or to laugh when we’re with friends, or to smile when we’re with the people we love. God gives us Joy just because we are God’s children!

Reader 2: All right. But it’s not Christmas yet, so we can only open one more gift.

Reader 1: Good thing, because it’s the last one here!

*(Give the box filled with LOVE. Encourage the children to share the gift as it is opened and wait a moment for the candy to be passed out)*

This really is the greatest gift. God gave us love so that we would love each other and know that we are loved by God, and God gave us Jesus to show how much God loves us. Jesus teaches us how we should love God and how we should love each other.

Reader 2: So I guess we are celebrating by opening up the gifts God has already given us!

Reader 1: That’s right—these gifts are more important than any boxes we could open under our tree, because these are gifts that we are given every single day! We celebrate on Christmas because that’s the day we celebrate Jesus being given to us, but really, every day is like Christmas, because Jesus is still with us. And all these gifts are given to us every day by God and by the people who love us. And we can give these gifts to others, too!

Reader 2: These are wonderful gifts. I think we should say a prayer of thanks to God for the gifts we are given today, and tomorrow, and every day through Jesus.

*(Finish with Prayer)*