

## GIVING

### “A Quigley’s Village Christmas”

#### Understanding Giving from Your Child’s Point of View:

In “A Quigley’s Village Christmas,” Mr. Quigley and all the friends are busy preparing for their Christmas pageant. In the rush and confusion, Mr. Quigley accidentally loses Danny’s present. When Danny looks under the Christmas tree, he doesn’t find a gift with his name on it. He worries that he’s not getting a gift. Meanwhile, Spike and Bubba in their pageant roles as “Mary” and “Joseph,” try to make the Baby Jesus more comfortable than the Bible story calls for.

Danny and the other friends learn that Christmas means more than just getting presents. Milty gives an old kitchen table to make the Christmas star. Lemon contributes her doll, Mrs. Toddy, to the Christmas program. Mr. Quigley gives presents to each person in the play. The friends learn that Christmas means that God loves the world so much that God gave the best gift of all: Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The Christmas Story, included as part of “A Quigley’s Village Christmas,” reminds us that there is a chain connection between love of self, love for others, love of God, and God’s love for the individual. Giving and serving is all wrapped up in this connection. Before young children can learn to love others and love God, they must see themselves positively. They must be able to declare that a toy is “mine” before they will understand what sharing is about. Giving is one step beyond sharing, because they will not get back the object they gave.

Here are some things to consider in teaching your children about giving.

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**3 & 4 year-olds** may show spontaneous times of giving and helping. Parents can help their little ones learn to give by giving themselves. As children see their parents give and perhaps even act as partners in family contributions, they will experience the positive feelings that come with sharing. As children gain more experience playing and sharing with other children, they themselves will be ready to give to others.
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**5 & 6 year-olds** are starting to understand the feelings of other people. They can appreciate how much other people enjoy receiving gifts. In turn, these children can feel the joy of giving. Parents can help their children learn to give by providing ways for the children to participate in giving.
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**7 & 9 year-olds** enjoy completing projects. When they give the products to others as gifts, they feel affirmed about their own activities and talents. Parents can encourage such contributions. Adults will want to avoid making children feel their self-worth is dependent on “buying” the friendship of others through gift-giving.



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#### Follow Up Activities for You and Your Child

During the video, you may want to occasionally stop it and ask your children: “What do you think you would do (or feel or say) in this story?” Then, watch how the program ends. After the program, you may want to try these activities:

- 1 Track the days to Christmas (or any special event) with a paper chain.  
Use scissors to cut 25 4-inch strips of paper. On each paper strip, write down something that your child can do to help someone: read a story, sing a song, draw a picture, make the bed, etc. Glue, tape or staple the strips into paper links together to form a chain. Each day before Christmas, remove one of the links from the chain and perform the helpful action that’s written on the paper.
- 2 Make holiday baskets to share with other people.  
Collect baskets or small boxes or paper bags and items to fill them, such as fruit, cheese, tea, cookies, sausage, or crackers. Add designs drawn with magic markers. As a family, deliver it to a homebound neighbor or friend.
- 3 Send greeting cards.  
Use paper, markers or crayons, stickers, scissors, glue and tape to make cards for other family members or friends. Older children can write their own messages. Younger children can dictate their ideas for parents to write.
- 4 Re-tell the Christmas story with pantomime.  
As a family, do the actions of the story: walking to Bethlehem, knocking on the door at the inn, shaking their heads to indicate there’s no room, sleeping in the stable, cradling the infant, and clapping hands in praise.
- 5 Give away your best smiles to members of your family.
- 6 Learn and sing together one of the songs from “A Quigley’s Village Christmas.”



#### Supplemental Materials for You and Your Child

Additional resources and can be found at: [www.quigleysvillage.net](http://www.quigleysvillage.net)