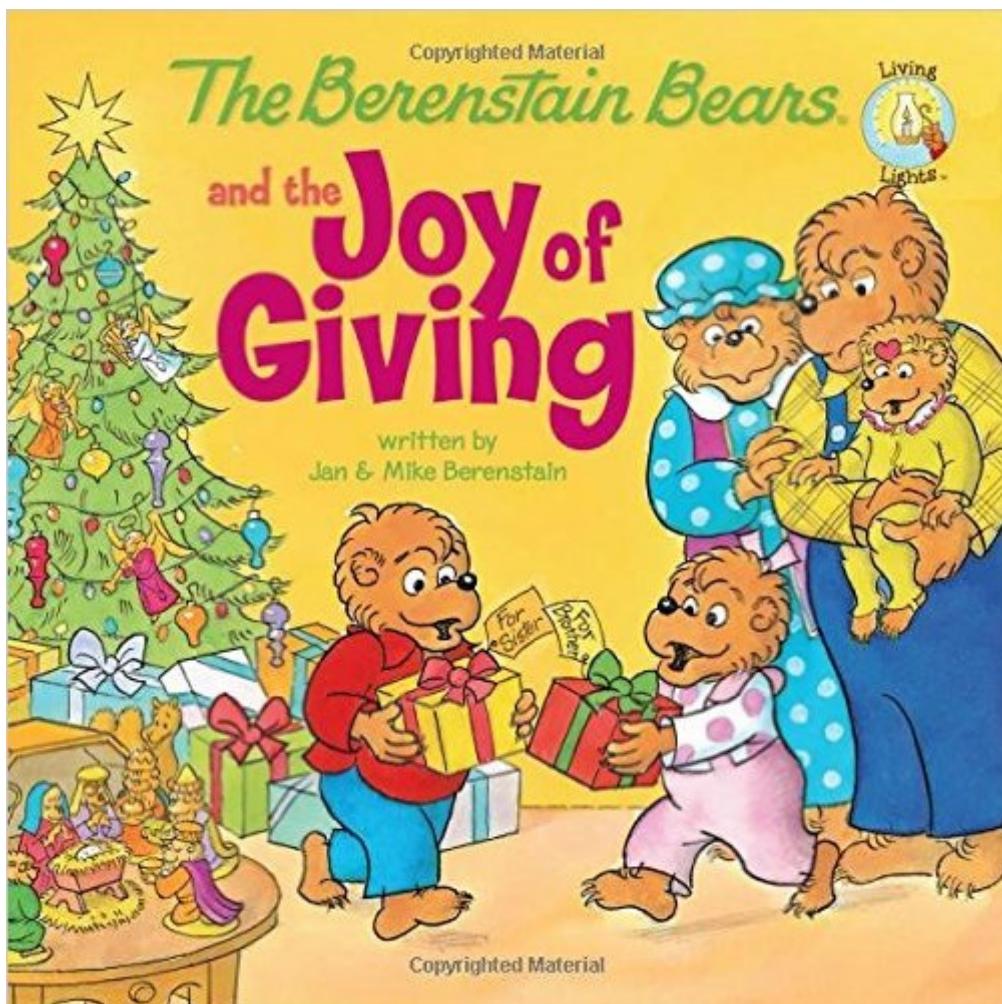


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# The Berenstain Bears And The Joy Of Giving



## **Synopsis**

In The Berenstain Bears and The Joy of Giving Brother and Sister Bear can't wait for Christmas and all the presents they'll open. But during the Christmas Eve pageant, something special happens! The Bear cubs learn a very valuable lesson about the joy of giving to others.

## **Book Information**

Series: Berenstain Bears

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Zonderkidz; Original edition (June 5, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0310712556

ISBN-13: 978-0310712558

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (126 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,627 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas #14 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian #24 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Children's & Teens

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## **Customer Reviews**

The Berenstain Bears and the Joy of Giving is an excellent book to read this Christmas season. Understanding the purpose of gift giving is a tough concept for children young and old (and many adults). Brother and Sister Bear receive money from their grandparents. They use this money to purchase gifts for others. Then each quietly plot how they can purchase small gifts to allow themselves to keep as much money as possible. After being in a church Christmas program, they understand that the reason why we give gifts is because at the First Christmas Jesus was our gift from God. The shepherds and wisemen also brought gifts to the Baby King. Afterwards the Bear Siblings give the rest of their money to the poor. Momma C's Thoughts: This is a longer than usual Berenstain Bear book. At 38 pages, this book is geared toward older children (ages 4-8). Even at that, our kiddos (ages 2-6) stayed seated for the whole book but know that most of the concepts went over the youngest's understanding. I also liked how the book used the example of "bell ringers" or the Salvation Army. This allowed us to discuss the importance of remembering those in

need and who the people are who stand outside stores this time of year. Activities and questions are also included at the end of the book which are very helpful for parents to further the learning. Thank you to Zonderkidz for giving me the opportunity to review this book.

I wasn't sure quite what to expect upon reading some of the reviews for this book, but since we love the Berenstain Bears, I went ahead and ordered it. I thought that the story was very sweet and simple for children. Brother & Sister are both behaving selfishly in the beginning of the book and realize why we truly celebrate Christmas and exchange gifts. They decide that they want to donate the money they have left over to others. I actually think it's somewhat amusing that reviewers would criticize this book by saying that this has an underlying Christian message as though it would be a bad thing. This is a book about CHRISTMAS, a holiday celebrated by Christians so if you celebrate the holiday (& the birth of Christ) you wouldn't find it offensive. If you teach in a public school, you may not want to read this to the class. Also, the reviewers should consider that it is part of the Living Lights collection of Berenstain Bear books which tend to promote biblical themes. We enjoyed the book & read it several times.

My son enjoys reading this book, but I agree with most of the reviews from others. It's pretty lengthy and it's just not like all the classic books from Stan and his wife. Usually we have to read books over and over again, but this one wasn't read as often.

I thought this was going to be some short book about the joy of giving. Not only is it longer than I thought, but it explains why we do presents and all about Jesus's birth. It became a teaching tool instead of a short read. I loved it and my kids (4&7) received the message well as I read it individually to them before bed.

Eh, I feel like the lesson could have been better here. Brother and sister buy each other cheap gifts so they can buy themselves something later, but instead, they end up giving the money to charity and they are happy with the gift they received. Maybe one of them could have bought a nice present and the other one felt guilty? or they were both a little disappointed when they opened the cheap presents? or a bigger deal could have been made out of the donation at the end?

I really loved this Christmas book that talks more about good choices and behaviors with gift giving and receiving at Christmas instead of all the standard books about Santa and the magic in getting

gifts. I enjoy books about Christ and his birth and influence on Christmas too but this is a great addition to our Christmas book collection that helps children think of and understand that Christmas is more than getting things. As parents we try to guide our children to appreciate gifts big and small and to think of others and what to give to make them happy and this book is perfect in helping teach thoughtfulness towards others.

This Christmas, I wanted to teach my daughter the importance of giving to others instead of receiving and this was a great way of teaching it. She liked reading the book and it let her understand that it's a good thing to give and not always receive.

As a huge Berenstain Bears fan, I think I bought this more for myself than for my 2 year old. She enjoys the bears books but she isn't crazy about them yet. I think they are a bit too old for her still but she likes to flip through them. I think this story is cute though.

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