

This is a Quaker story about gifts. Gifts are very special things. Gifts can come wrapped in a colorful package with a bow. Birthday gifts. Christmas gifts. Gifts that say, “thank you.” Gifts that say, “I love you.” Gifts for no particular reason.

There are many other kinds of gifts. They are all around us. It can be something someone does for another person, like washing the dishes, or giving someone a hug. It can be something we don't even see, like the air we breathe.

Then there are the gifts that God gives to each one of us. Our gifts are special parts of who we are. These gifts help us live a whole life, make a whole family, or be a whole meeting community. They are one way we share the Light within us.

People young and old bring their gifts to our meeting community. If we pay attention and care for one another, we can discover them. We can help each other understand how to use those gifts wisely.

This Friend always makes people feel at home in the meeting. They greet everyone with a warm smile and sometimes a hug. They have a gift of welcome. This gift is not for them alone. God gave it to them for the whole meeting community. Perhaps you know someone like this.

This Friend is always doing something for others. They send birthday and get well cards to people. They bake cookies for service projects. They help to take care of the meetinghouse. They have a gift of service. This gift is not for them alone. It is for them to share with the whole meeting community. Perhaps you know someone like this.

This Friend always has a good question. People find that these questions are often *their* questions, too. They help everyone think about the things that really matter. They have a gift of questions. This gift is not for them alone. God gave it to them for the whole meeting community. Perhaps you know someone like this.

This Friend loves music. Their songs can turn frowns into smiles and make people happy. Sometimes the songs they share are so beautiful that everyone is quiet and still. They have a gift of song. This gift is not for them alone. God gave it to them for the whole meeting community. Perhaps you know someone like this.

This one isn't sure what their gifts are. Sometimes it takes a long time to understand our gifts. They will listen in their heart; they will listen for God. The meeting community will help them to discover and use their gifts. Perhaps you know someone like this.

God gives gifts to each one of us. Our gifts are parts of who we are. God works in our hearts and through our gifts. Our meeting community (or family) has all the gifts we need.