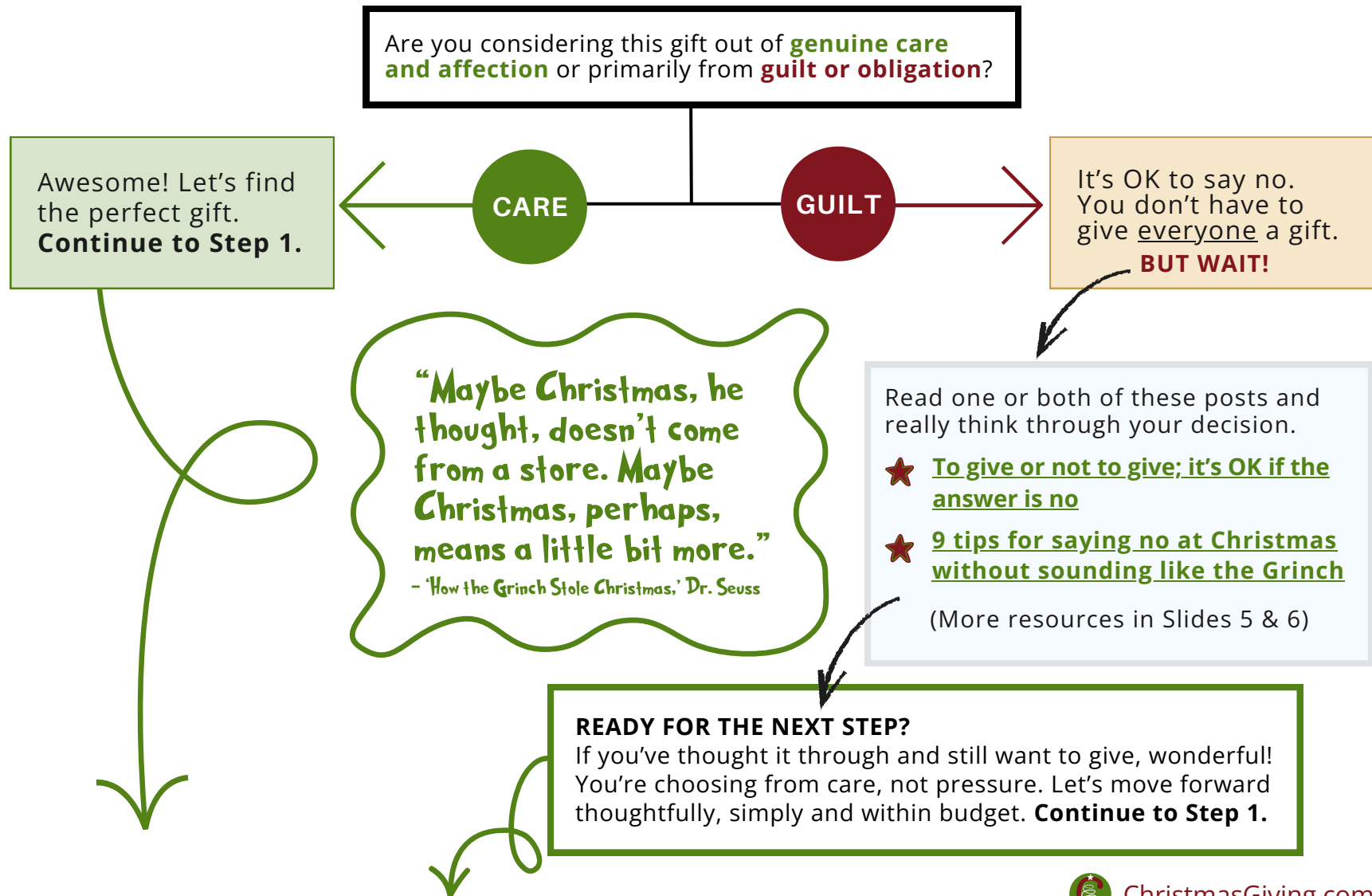


Gift Giving Decision Guide

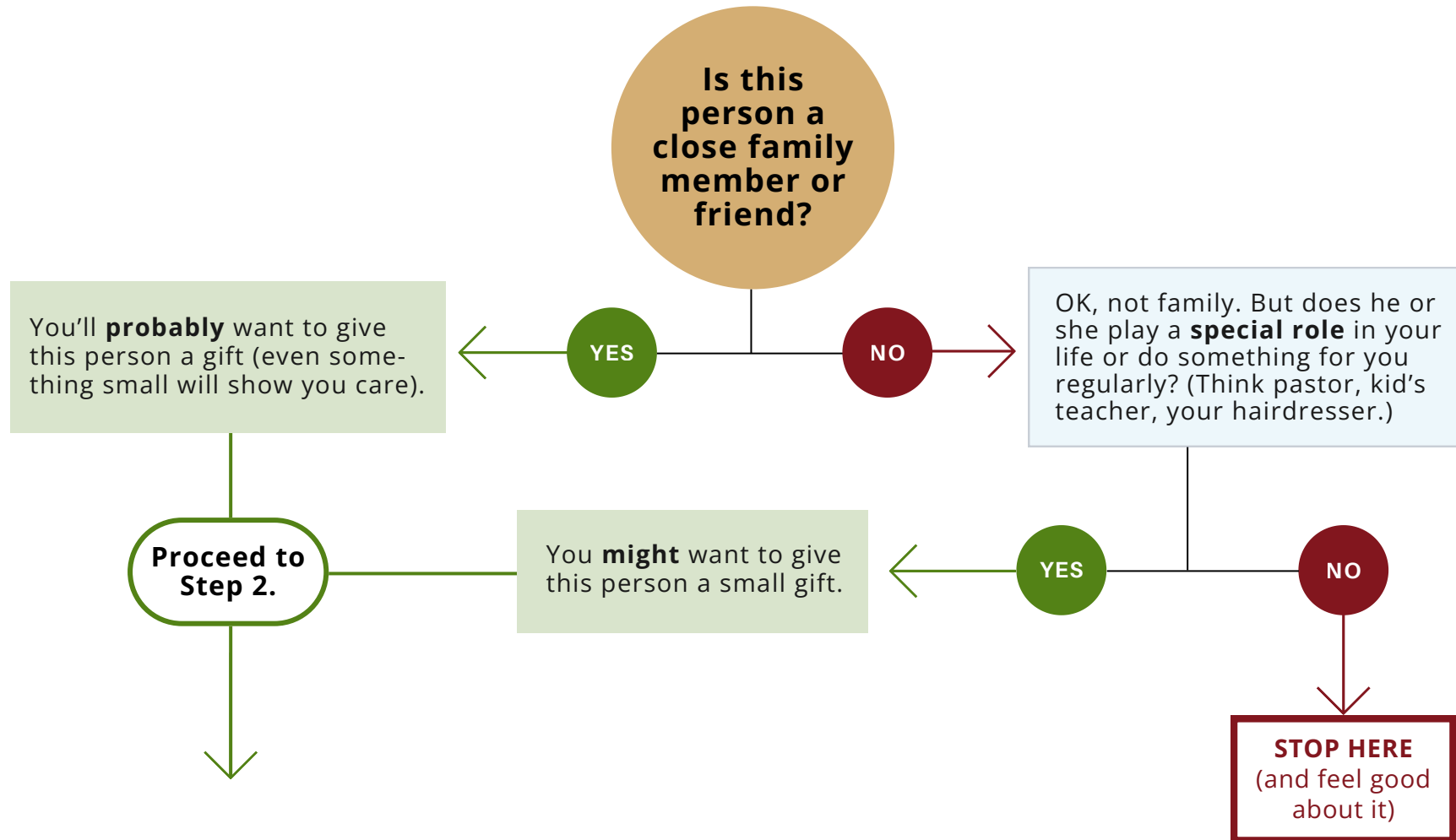
Follow this process to make thoughtful and intentional decisions for everyone on your list. Whether for the holidays or another occasion, this guide will help you decide whether to give a gift, whether to buy it or make it, and how to choose one in your price range. **Use this guide over and over, for each person on your list.**

BUT FIRST: CHECK YOUR HEART BEFORE YOU START



Step 1: Clarify Your Relationship

Now that you've checked your motivation, **think about how this person fits into your life** and whether a gift feels appropriate.



Step 2: Set a Sensible Budget

Now that you've decided this person belongs on your list, **let's make sure your giving stays joyful, not stressful**. A realistic budget lets you be generous without adding pressure.

\$20 & under

\$20-\$50

\$50+

Choose your budget range, then ...

Proceed to Step 3.

Step 3: Make It or Buy It

You've set your budget, so **it's time to decide how you'll give**.

MAKE IT

CONSIDER:

- Do you *enjoy* creating or crafting?
- Do you have the time and materials?
- Would something handmade feel more meaningful for this person?

If yes, go for it! Even a simple homemade touch can make your gift memorable.

BUY IT

CONSIDER:

- Would buying save you time or stress?
- Do you already know what they'd love?
- Would a purchased gift better suit your recipient's needs or style?

If so, that's just as thoughtful. Intentional doesn't have to mean handmade.

NOTE: The links in this PDF are clickable.

Proceed to Step 4.



ChristmasGiving.com

Step 4: Choose the Gift Type

You've set your budget and decided how you'll give. Now let's think about **what kind of gift best fits this person and your relationship**.

Different gifts express care in different ways, so choose what feels most meaningful.

PRACTICAL/USEFUL

Something your recipient needs or would use regularly (great for people who appreciate function and simplicity)

EXPERIENCE

Tickets, an outing, or time spent together (a wonderful option for creating memories instead of clutter)

INDULGENT/TREAT

Something special they wouldn't buy for themselves (perfect for adding a little joy or luxury)

SENTIMENTAL/PERSONAL

Photo gifts, keepsakes or items with emotional meaning (ideal for close family and friends who value memories)

Proceed to Step 5.



Step 5: Get Inspired

You've done the thoughtful work. Now it's time for the fun part! Browse ideas that fit your relationship, budget and gift type. Use these as a starting point, then add your personal touch.

IF YOU'RE ON A TIGHT BUDGET

- ★ [Ideas for gifts that cost \\$20 or less](#)
- ★ [10 ideas for gifts that are free \(or almost!\) but feel priceless](#)
- ★ [Browse all Budget Friendly posts](#)

EXPERIENCE

- ★ [10 experience gifts that make memories, not clutter](#)
- ★ [10 family night gift baskets that make memories](#)

INDULGENT/TREAT

- ★ [Ideas for gifts that cost \\$20-\\$50](#)
- ★ [Ideas for gifts that cost \\$50 or more](#)

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING

- ★ [10 ideas for gifts that are free \(or almost!\) but feel priceless](#)
- ★ [5 ways to cut Christmas spending without feeling like a cheap-o](#)

Need even more inspiration?

- Visit [ChristmasGiving.com](https://christmasgiving.com) for the latest updates.
- Search categories: [generosity](#) | [giving](#) | [budget friendly](#) | [gift ideas](#)
- Subscribe to the weekly newsletter for tips and encouragement.

Remind yourself: It's about love and connection (and, ultimately, Jesus), not how much you spend.



For more on thoughtful giving (and living)

Here are links to a few more blog posts that will help you navigate gift giving and other holiday ... well, everything. Just remember: You don't have to take out a second mortgage on your home to make Christmas meaningful. After all, it's about the Ultimate Gift: Jesus.

Before we get into posts that are specifically about money and shopping, let's start with one containing nine tips that help you grow your "no" muscle (also linked from Page 1 above). When you get there, you'll even find a condensed version in the form of a printable PDF, in case you need to take the nine reminders with you. Internalize those principles, then go from there. 😊

- ★ [9 tips for saying no at Christmas without sounding like the Grinch. Scroll to the bottom of the post for the printable version.](#)
- ★ [The best Friday was not Black Friday](#)
- ★ [Teach your kids to give \(without making it feel like a guilt trip\)](#)
- ★ [Christmas joy that money can't buy](#)
- ★ [Sleigh the holidays with these lazy genius hacks](#)

STAY CONNECTED

Visit [ChristmasGiving.com](https://christmasgiving.com) for the latest updates (search categories such as "generosity," "giving" and "budget friendly"). You can also get (fun) weekly tips, inspiration, and encouragement by subscribing – if you haven't already – to the Christmas Giving newsletter.

FEEDBACK WELCOME!

I'm always looking for ways to improve ChristmasGiving.com and the newsletter. I want to serve YOU and feature posts and emails that will be helpful to you in your journey. Here are ways you can get in touch with me (Suzy Oakley, resident Grinch/Jolly Elf):

- Visit the [Contact page](#) at ChristmasGiving.com.
- Reply to one of my emails (if you're a subscriber).
- Email me directly at suzy@christmasgiving.com.

