Mother’s Day focused on time, not money

You don’t have to break the bank to buy your mom the Mother’s Day present she deserves.

With all the attention given to flowers and greeting cards and dinners at fancy restaurants and expensive jewelry to show her you care—it’s no wonder people think they need to take out a personal loan to get the right gift for their mothers.

But nothing could be further from the truth.

No one knows better than mom the importance of gifts that can mean more than they cost. Remember all those cards and paintings you made in elementary school arts class intended for your mother? Well, she does. And chances are she still has them in her bedroom somewhere.

Mother’s Day is about celebrating your mom or the mom-like figure in your life. Why not take a lesson from all those long-ago arts and crafts projects and make a gift for this very important woman in your life?

**Idea #1: Make her a frame with a picture of you and the other important people in her life right in the center**. If you’re a mother, you know how important your children are to you. Same is true with your mom. By now you know you will always be her baby so why not use your (new or old) creative skills to make a frame that holds you in the center? The internet is filled with Do-It-Yourself ideas for frames and other photo holders. Choose one and get going. If all else fails, you can copy one you did from elementary school. She loved it then, maybe mom will love it now.

**Idea #2: Don’t take her out to eat. Make her favorite meal at home instead**. Going to restaurants can be nice, but sometimes staying at home with the family isn’t only cheaper but more fun! Get your siblings or children or significant other together and plan mom’s favorite meal or maybe just her favorite dessert. Just know that if you’re preparing this in her kitchen, you may be bossed around by the guest of honor and told you have no clue what you’re doing. But that can be fun, too, right?

**Idea #3: Watch her favorite movie(s) with her**. It could be that you and your mom share similar tastes, or you don’t but spending time with mom and doing what she loves is a great way to show her you love and appreciate her. Just try not to doze off or laugh at things she thinks are serious. You don’t want her to feel annoyed on her special day. Just enjoy that fact that you get to hang out with your mom. For free! What could be better than that.

**Idea #4: Head to a local park or your backyard and have a picnic**. Of course, Mother Nature has to be agreeable for this to work, but most of the time she is. Bring some fruits and snacks and maybe even your siblings - if you feel like sharing mom with them, too, - sit around telling stories. If you have ever been around a mother, you know they love to tell stories about their kids, especially when the child their talking about is you. So, get ready for a stroll down memory lane and a few laughs as mom recalls some of her favorite – and maybe embarrassing – recollections of you.

Mother’s Day is truly a time to do what moms love best and that usually involves spending time with their families. Sure, a diamond may be great and a dinner at a restaurant may be nice, but nothing beats seeing your mom comfortable, laughing out loud, glancing at her children with joy. Getting the family together to thank mom for all her hard work is the point of this holiday and that shouldn’t cost much money. Just a lot of love.