



PEACE BY *piece* SERIES

CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL WEEK FOUR: PLAN

Peace and Goodwill

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. - Luke 2:13-14

With Christmas upon us, most people are working to get into the spirit. Stores offer Christmas gifts, treats and decor, TV shows switched to the theme of giving and love, and Santas are everywhere. And why not, after all it is that time of year, the meaning of the season, right?

Yet, the very first Christmas happened without the power of TV, without candy canes, without Santa, and without Christmas sales. Even more amazingly, the very first Christmas involved a poor couple, seemingly nobodies, who would lay the most precious child of all in a manger. (Luke 2:4)

Today, we have strayed from the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas wasn't just about giving, or feeling loved, it was about true love. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ, the Savior who came into this world to die... for everyone, even those who killed him. (Romans 5:8) Jesus, God's gift not to the deserving, not to the Jews, but to everyone. (Colossians 3:11)

Rude, sometimes cutthroat behavior abounds, not to mention that just since 2006, there have been 12 reported deaths and 117 injuries associated with Black Friday alone. People have been stabbed and shot in altercations while shopping, a Walmart worker was trampled to death because people couldn't wait to save a few dollars. We seem to have forgotten that love isn't hurting another to give your child what they want, but rather to do what is right and moral. (1 Corinthians 13:6) Christmas isn't just about showing love for those you care for, but for those who are undeserving, and those you do not even know. Just as God came to die, for those who were undeserving, and those who He did not know in a spiritual relationship. (Luke 13:25). Take heart, there are also wonderful stories of selfless giving of time and resources as well.

Prayer

Today, let us take time to remember and thank God for the true meaning of Christmas... Peace on Earth, Good will toward Men, for the Savior who came to show us how to love, and to give us the greatest gift, His love. (John 15:13) Instead of buying expensive toys and gifts, Ask God to show you how you can give to those who would normally go without. Ask how you can help out others who are not as fortunate as you. May you join God's story to show them the true meaning of Christmas, the gift of God's love (John 13:34), and love others as God first loved you. (1 John 4:19)

