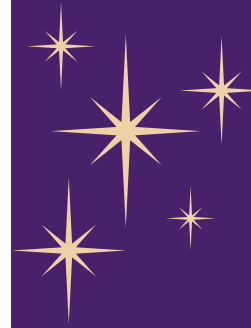


# PEACE TO YOU THIS CHRISTMAS



*little tips of wisdom to help guide you through*



*"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."*

**James 3:17-18**

*"Look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."*

**Philippians 2:4**



P

## PREPARE THROUGH PRAYER

- Seriously, there is nothing more powerful you can do than this – prepare your heart, your attitude towards your family members, the way you will approach the day and how it pans out – the whole box and dice.
- Ask God not only to bless the day, but to bless the people who'll be there – pray for them by name.
- Ask God to help you not to insist on your version of the perfect Christmas and be willing to be flexible.

E

## EXPECT THE EXPECTED

- Be ready for the usual comments and issues, and have a gracious response ready. Here's where your prayer preparation, especially on the day will really pay off.
- Today's not normally the day to bash out big issues from the past – so don't jump into that trap (but do be willing to deal with those important issues at another time).

A

## ANTICIPATE CHALLENGES

- Expect the unexpected as well - and when it happens, strive to remain calm.
- Plan ahead for ways to help your kids (and even the adults) through the day - maybe even talk to your host before the day to work out some strategies/games/activities to help the day go well.
- Think through how YOU can help with some of the regular challenges (eg. food, kids, cleaning up etc).

C

## CONSIDER OTHERS FIRST

- Seek to show unusual kindness and consideration – especially to those who may find Christmas hard for all sorts of reasons.
- Showing true love to others is often costly – but it's the greatest gift you can give for Christmas – and it's what God did for us by giving his own son Jesus for us to make relationship with him possible.
- Remember to end the day well by leaving at the right time (not too early or late!) and genuinely thanking your host for all they've done – it means a lot.

E

## ENJOY THE FRUIT!

- If you remember that nothing is perfect, you can give yourself permission to relax and enjoy what's good about the day, and not be so troubled by any things that might not go so well.
- Our prayer is that by doing these things, you can become something of a "secret peacemaker" for your family's Christmas, and that you will enjoy the fruit of peace!



*"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord".*

**2 Peter 1:2**