

Message

"Christmas Vacation"

Application

How Long Are They Staying?

Page

December 9, 2007

Key Scriptures

Matthew 1:1-19; Ephesians 5:1; Ephesians 1:5; Philippians 4:7

Start It

1. What TV family best represents your own and why?

Study It

1. What do you think Matthew hoped to accomplish by beginning his Gospel with a genealogy? What does this lead you to believe about the authenticity of Scripture?
2. Which of the Old Testament people in Jesus' family tree do you recognize? What do you know about them? Which people would you like to learn more about?
3. According to the Ephesians 5:1 passage, how are Christians to imitate God?
4. What does it mean to be adopted as God's children (Ephesians 1:5)? What does that mean to you?

Apply It

1. How might this passage in Matthew encourage those who suffer from a dubious family history?
2. How can you use the promise in Philippians 4:7 to "re-gift" peace to those around you this Christmas?
3. Can you think of some examples of practical acts of love/grace toward those in your family? What might they be?

Live It

When your descendants gather for future Christmases, how will they describe you? What actions do you need to take (or choices do you need to make) this week to make those impressions positive and grace-filled? Perhaps begin by changing your focus from what someone else does to what *you* can do for Christ.

Memorize It

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Study It More

1 Peter 2:21; Hebrews 12:1-2