

**Message: We Are Family (Plaid Sunday)**

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Isaiah 9:6-7; 7:14 | Luke 1:3-4; 2:8-20 | John 3:1; 13:34-35; John 14:6-7  
Romans 12:10-13; 15:7 | Galatians 4:4-7 | Ephesians 1:4-5 | 2 Peter 3:9  
1 John 3:1

**Good News From God:**

- Savior
- Lord
- Produces Great Joy
- For Everyone

***Good News: I am made part of the family.***

The Blessing of Family

The Responsibility of Family

- Get along with your brothers and sisters.
- Look out for each other.
- Take care of each other.
- Show mercy to each other.

What do you do with this Good News: **Go, See, and Rejoice!**

***This week look for ways to join the Advent Conspiracy by making it a part of your life.***

**Worship Fully** by recognizing the wonder of God around you and in you.

**Spend Less.** Look for ways to give relationally to friends and family. There is a list of suggestions on the web site [www.seekreallife.com](http://www.seekreallife.com)

**Give More.** Consider participating in the giving tree in the foyer.

**Love All.** Give the gift of invitation. Invite someone to join you in worship this season. Invite someone to share a cup of cocoa with you. Invite someone to your home to watch a Christmas movie with you (Elf, It's a Wonderful Life, A Christmas Story, How the Grinch Stole Christmas-*animated version*, A Charlie Brown Christmas) the key is to express love and care to others by giving of yourself.

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**Gift Ideas for Relational Giving**

*Here are a few ideas to get your own creative juices flowing!*

***Here are some ideas for spending time together:***

- Wrap popcorn, gourmet root beer, and a classic DVD for a movie night with a friend.
- Host Monday Night Football and make homemade pizzas.
- Wrap two copies of a used classic book to read with a friend.
- Hot cocoa, bundle up, and take a walk through the Christmas lit streets downtown with friends or family.

**Give creative coupons:**

- Babysitting for your worn out sister-in-law.
- Yard work for an elderly person in your life.
- Massage for that person who has been working a bit too hard lately.
- Road trip for an out-of-town adventure with your child.
- Free offer to a friend to get together and talk about how God is moving in your lives.
- To change the oil in a friend's car. (if you know how)
- House project to help them build that shed, clean the garage, closets, etc.

**Give a certificate for a day together doing something that person is passionate about:**

- A new bat and a trip to the batting cages.
- A new guitar strap and a trip to the local music shop to play guitars together.
- A day trip with your cameras with a photographer friend.
- A day hike together... bring a lunch for the both of you.

**Things to make with the kids:**

- A simple scrapbook with pictures of time spent with the person you're giving it to or pictures of the kids for far away family or friends.
- A home "published" story, written and illustrated by the kids. The time you spend together will be priceless.
- A DVD or MP4 of your life these days for long distance friends and family.
- Ask yourself, "What can I do?" and give of yourself. "What do they like to do?" and make time to do it with them.

*This isn't about creating a bunch of new rules to be legalistic about for Christmas. It's o.k. to spend some money. (in fact, sometimes creating something cool can be much more expensive--so be aware of that) Don't create a whole separate set of pressures, worry, and guilt by feeling like you can't spend a dime. Just step out of the consumerism, be thoughtful, and enjoy the celebration!*

**Real Life Prayer for 2021**

As we journey together in 2021, let us continue to pray for a deeper, intimate, personal, and dependent relationship with the Lord – walking step by step with Jesus as He leads us through all that is to come this year.

In following Jesus as He builds on all He has done in and through us, let us step boldly! To that end, our word for Real Life church in 2021 is **impact**.

*Lord, have impact in my inner self.*  
*Lord, have impact in my trust in you and obey your leading.*  
*Lord, have impact in the words of life and hope you give me.*  
*Lord, have impact in my family.*  
*Lord, have impact in our community.*

*In the name of Jesus we pray,  
Amen.*

**Notes:**

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