



## SERMON OUTLINE

Sunday December 8th, 2019

### **What's Most Important**

Pastor David Cooke - Philippians 4:8-9

- **Is There Room?**
  
- **Taking Inventory**
  
- **Making Room For What?**
  
- **Pursuing The Best**  
Philippians 4:8–9
  
- A. Find Models and Mentors  
1 Corinthians 11:1
  
- B. Encounter Jesus  
John 14:6  
Isaiah 9:6–7, NLT
  
- C. Peace > ???  
Philippians 4:6–7



COLDSPRINGS  
CHURCH

- **Choosing The Best**  
Deuteronomy 30:19–20

- A. Daily

- i) Present
- ii) Aware
- iii) Still

- B. Weekly

- Connect With Jesus In Community
  - a) Worship
  - b) Life Group
  - c) Friendship

- C. Generosity

- i) With Your Time
- ii) With Your Resources
- iii) With Your Giftedness

- **Remember...**



# ADVENT DEVOTIONAL: **Prioritizing Relational Investments**

(Matt. 5:23-24; Rom. 12:9-18; Eph. 4:2)

There are a bazillion little catch phrases that we use this time of year to direct our focus where it should be. “*Jesus is the reason for the season*” gains quite a bit of traction with each Christmas season as we endeavor to prevent the busyness of November and December from steamrolling our lives. And that phrase is absolutely true! But if you’re like me, you convince yourself that “*it’s just a short season*” and then we’ll “*get back to normal.*”

Sadly, getting back to normal often takes its toll on our own lives and the relationships we care so deeply about. We allow so many unnecessary things to clutter our days and distract us from the people who need a relational investment from us.

I’d like to suggest a couple of questions that we can ask ourselves when we are knee-deep in the Christmas activities that have filled our calendars.

1. ***Is participating in this holiday activity really how I want to spend my time?*** There are parties, events, plays and other Christmas-type activities that could literally consume every day of our lives from Thanksgiving until New Year’s Day. Are most parties fun? Yes. Are all events necessary? No. While you and I may want to be involved in every fun thing, is it the best use of our time? We need to consider limiting our outings and events so that we can give our best to those we love the most.
2. ***How do I keep my vital relationships a priority in the midst of holiday attention stealers?*** We don’t have to spend hours each day investing in those closest to us. Some days we can spend that amount of time and that is fantastic! But, I have found that when we make a little time each day, we’ll be surprised on just how much return there is on such a contribution. It really is that simple.

For the most part, the relationships in your life may be in a healthy place. But some of you have those lingering, negative feelings about that person you still need to forgive. Or that person whose actions cause you to roll your eyes and exhale a long sigh because you wonder if they’ll ever change. If forgiveness is in order, tell me, what is it that keeps you from offering it to another? And if it’s not forgiveness, would you be willing to ask your Heavenly Father what it is that makes you so annoyed by certain individuals? Chances are strong that it has nothing to do with them but more to do with you.



Stings a bit, doesn't it? I so get it. But we must allow the Holy Spirit to excavate the bitter places in our hearts in every area of our lives so that we can live life to the fullest. And not just in November and December but for the entire year.

-C. Beall

**Remembering Christmas Devotional:** In this 5-Day Bible Plan, we're intentionally **making room**—in our minds, relationships, time, bodies, and resources—to remember the real meaning of Christmas. Visit: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/13424-remembering-christmas>.

## Making Space | An Advent Devotional

As the Christmas season begins, we usually find ourselves more stretched for time than the rest of the year. We get caught up in the frenzy – and forget to focus on what's truly important. This devotional will help you clear the clutter so you can make more room for Christ this Christmas.



We would like to thank *Susan Narjala* for providing this plan. <https://bible.com/reading-plans/13415-making-space-an-advent-devotional>.

## Experience Christmas | An Interactive Family Devotional

Discover who God is this Christmas through experiencing His word in song, in text, in what you say and how you share it with each other. Each devotion features a **Hear It, Read it, Say It, Share It** section where the family can interact with the devotion and apply it to their lives in a fun and meaningful way.



We would like to thank *Bethel Music Kids* for providing this plan. <https://bible.com/reading-plans/3365-experience-christmas-a-family-devotional>.

## Christmas Break | A Student Reading Plan

Christmas is the most magical time of year, except when it isn't—when nothing looks like the Christmas we see in commercials, movies, and even our friends' families. In this series, we'll discover that, even when Christmas doesn't live up to our expectations, because of Jesus, we still have a reason to celebrate.



<https://bible.com/reading-plans/12663-christmas-break>.