



THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

WHEN FAMILY REACHES BEYOND THE WALLS OF YOUR HOME



This guide is a tool to examine how you and your community can support a family facing a major crisis during the holiday season and beyond, and how you can “cherish every moment” with your loved ones, even during times of crisis.

The Heart of Christmas is an inspiring family movie premiering on December 4th at 7 pm ET on:



UPLIFTING ENTERTAINMENT

The Locke's Story

This Guide is based on the true story of the Locke family, which is told in the movie, *The Heart of Christmas*. Dax's parents are determined to give their seriously ill son an early and magical Christmas. The Locke's decide to put decorations up early and celebrate the holiday despite their circumstances. Their neighbors hear the news and decorate their homes as well, and soon families worldwide join the outpouring love for Dax as he experiences the heart of Christmas.



CHERISH



EVERY



MOMENT

LISTEN • REFLECT

Take a moment to reflect on one of the questions below:

Listen to the Matthew West song “The Heart of Christmas” (you can download it online or watch it on Youtube here: <http://bit.ly/heartofchristmassong>). Think about what is most important to you about Christmas.

Reflect on these questions while listening:

- What are my priorities in life?
- What would it mean for me to “come back to the heart of Christmas” this year?
- How can I mobilize myself and my community to help?

MATTHEW WEST SONG
“The Heart of Christmas” Lyrics

I’m gonna make a wish this Christmas
I’m gonna say a little prayer
I’m gonna stop here for a moment
Before the moment disappears.
The world’s in a hurry this December
City streets and shopping malls
I wish we could slow down and remember
The meaning of it all

Wherever you are, no matter how far
Come back to the heart, the heart of Christmas
Live while you can, cherish the moment
The ones that you love, make sure they know it.

Don’t miss it, the heart of Christmas
Let’s make it feel the way it used to
Let’s find that wonder of a child
You can see the magic all around you
Come on, and open up your eyes

You can find it in the warm embrace of your family
Or calling up a long lost friend
You can even find it in the eyes of a stranger
When you reach out a helping hand.

Wherever you are, no matter how far
Come back to the heart, the heart of Christmas.

Take time to share your thoughts and feelings.

Let’s look at how Scripture relates to the theme of helping someone in need.

READ • DISCUSS **Scripture: Read Luke 10:25-37 - Story of the Good Samaritan**

DISCUSS:

In the Good Samaritan story, people are passing by the one in need, because they're too busy. We want our giving to be *convenient* and to fit into *our* schedule, but sometimes God calls us to give when it's not convenient or easy - when people need it most.

In *The Heart of Christmas* movie, Dax couldn't wait - the Locke's neighbors had to change not only their personal clock but the whole timing of the Christmas season in order to give him the gift of Christmas.

- Where is a needy person or family in my community right now?
- How can I rearrange my timing so that I can help them NOW when they need it?

WATCH • DISCUSS **Watch the Clip: The Power of Someone Who Really Cares**

Access the clip online at: <http://bit.ly/THOCFreeGuide>

In this clip, Julie Locke (Dax's mom), is surrounded by her friends in the coffee shop and at her home. They embrace her and let her know the meaning of love and friendship.

- What does it feel like to have friends with you during a time of crisis?
- What does this say about the true meaning of Christmas?
- How can you cherish every moment with the ones you love?

REACT • APPLY

- Think of an individual or a family in crisis during this Christmas season.
- Brainstorm ways you can provide support by yourself and/or with your community.
- Contact an organization or church in your community dealing with families facing a life-threatening illness, and offer your support.
- List ways you can "Cherish Every Moment" with those you love this season.

SPREAD THE WORD **Additional Resources**

Please go online for additional free tools and resources and help spread the word:

Official Movie Website: <http://bit.ly/theheartofchristmas>

St. Jude Hospital Movie Promotion Page: <http://bit.ly/stjudethoc>

Not sure if you have **gmc** on TV? Find out here: <http://bit.ly/FindGMConTV>

