

# CHERISH EVERY MOMENT

A FAMILY GUIDE TO FINDING JOY DURING TIMES OF CRISIS



This guide is a tool to help find moments of joy while facing a major crisis. It is based on the true story of the Locke family, which is told in the movie *The Heart of Christmas*, premiering on December 4th at 7 pm ET on:



UPLIFTING ENTERTAINMENT

## The Locke's Story

When their son, Dax Locke, is diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia, Dax's parents realize he may not live to see Christmas Day. 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

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**LISTEN • REFLECT**    *Take a moment to reflect on one of the questions below:*

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Listen to the Matthew West song “One Last Christmas” (you can download it online or watch it on Youtube here: <http://bit.ly/earlychristmas>). Reflect on these questions while listening and share what came to your mind as you listened to the song:

- Why is it so important to the Locke family to have one last Christmas with their son?
- How do moments like these make a difference in our lives?
- Is there something you can do to bring joy to a loved one who is suffering while you still have time?

MATTHEW WEST SONG  
“One Last Christmas” Lyrics

It's the news that no one hopes for,  
Every parent's greatest fear  
Finding out the child you love so much  
Might not make it through the year  
Now the thought of spending Christmas  
Without him just feels wrong  
They've been praying for a miracle,  
Now they're praying he can just hold on.

Chorus:

For one last Christmas, one last time,  
One last season when the world is right,  
One more telling of the story,  
One more verse of Silent Night,  
They'd give anything so he could have  
One last Christmas.

Middle of September  
Still seventy degrees  
Daddy climbs up in the attic  
Brings down candles  
Hangs the lights on all the trees,  
Then the neighbors start asking  
And pretty soon word got around  
First it was the neighborhood,  
Before too long they lit up that whole town.

Chorus

Twenty-seventh of October  
His time was wearing thin  
Friends and family, even strangers  
That they didn't know brought presents in  
He was weak but he was smiling  
Like there was nothing even wrong  
They said he wouldn't make it,  
Looks like he got to see it after all.

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**WATCH • DISCUSS**     **Watch Clip: Cherish Every Moment**

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

The community and neighbors come together to bring Dax an early Christmas. Julie Locke reflects on how important it is to cherish every moment with Dax while she still can.

- The community came together to create an early Christmas for Dax. Why do those actions mean so much to a family that is suffering?
- What does this say about the true meaning of Christmas?
- As a family, what can we do for a family in need this Christmas?

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**REACT • DISCUSS**     **Bring Joy to a Loved One**

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- Make a list of things your family could do or say to bring joy to a loved one (or a neighbor) that is going through a crisis right now.
- Some people who are suffering resist outside help, and bear burdens on their own. Think of ways to break through this isolation and *force* a suffering person to take time for moments of fun, relaxation, bonding and joy.
- List ways your family can “Cherish Every Moment” with those you love this season.

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**SPREAD THE WORD**     **Additional Resources**

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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>