



## Grown Up Christmas List ...

What gift would you love to give or receive this year that you couldn't open in a box?



"JENGA: On the Verge of Collapse" | 12.23.12

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."  
Isaiah 9:2 (NIV84)

What is the goal of the game Jenga?

Can you remember the most stressful time of your life? What was going on ... how did it get resolved?

What stands out to you as the **most stressful** parts of story the surrounding Jesus' birth?

What can you do to make that happen?

What can I learn from seeing **the faithfulness** of the Holy Family during such turbulent times?



You can listen or share this sermon online!

# Digging Deeper

[Use these readings to prepare you for worship next week!]

**Monday:** 12.24.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Small Group Ministry

**Passage:** Luke 2:41-52

**Insight:** We shared this story a few weeks ago when discussing how Joseph adopted Jesus. Today it comes to mind as we reflect on Sunday's message about Jesus' parents being stretched to the breaking point of life ... the pregnancy, the census, the unconventional birth, fleeing to Egypt and so much more. Couldn't it had been easier? The answer is yes it could—but then Jesus wouldn't be able to identify with our stress today. He faced it all—from his birth to his death, Jesus knows what we are facing!

**Tuesday:** 12.25.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Our Church Leadership

**Passage:** Matthew 1:1-17

**Insight:** Merry Christmas! We hope that this day is filled with good things for you ... family, friends, food, and relaxation! Our reading today might seem strange but let's take a moment to reflect on this list of names—most of whom you have no idea who they are or what they did with their life. They themselves had no idea that God was using them to bring His Son into the world. Do you ever feel lost or not needed—just wondering around in life? You never know how God might be using you to shape this generation, the next generation or even 14 generations from now ... continue being faithful to God and His plan!

**Wednesday:** 12.26.2012

**Prayer Focus:** The Ministry of Upward Basketball

**Passage:** Hebrews 11

**Insight:** This chapter has often been called the Spiritual Hall of Fame. It lists many of the characters of scripture who lived lives marked by great faith. Growing up, I wanted to break every record, go pro in every sport and achieve greater things than anyone before me. Today—I just want to survive. What often changes from our lofty goals to establishing the daily grind? How can we commit to living like a hall of famer?

**Thursday:** 12.27.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Our Fusion Student Ministry (7-12 grade)

**Passage:** Psalm 108:1-5

**Insight:** This Sunday, we are going to talk about God's faithfulness throughout the year. In preparing for this service, take time today to look back over 2012 and try to see God's hand in your life. How has He answered prayer? How has He met your needs? How has He surprised you with a gift or blessing? Make a list here:

**Friday:** 12.28.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Our Children's Ministry (baby - 6th gr)

**Passage:** Psalm 24

**Insight:** Who is this King of Glory? The Lord Almighty! As this year draws closer to an end, we can stand firm on this truth ... The Lord God is mighty and powerful and on the throne of the entire universe! Write a prayer of thanksgiving today to the King of kings and Lord of lords!

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