

for everyone...

What are your expectations for how our time will be spent on:

Thanksgiving day and the day after?

Christmas Eve?

Christmas Day?

How do you want to handle gifts this year:

One another?

Immediate family?

Extended family?

Friends?

Co-workers?

Neighbors?

What family traditions would you like for us to maintain this year?

What are some new family traditions we can start this year?

Do you feel like there is any unresolved conflict with those who we will be celebrating the holidays with this year? If so, how can we try to resolve this issue prior to the holidays?

How can we help each other remain focused on Jesus during this upcoming holiday season?

How can I specifically pray for you during this upcoming holiday season?

traveling out of town...

· How can I look out for your best interest during this trip?

· What are you most looking forward to?

· What are you most fearful of?

· What is the best way I can serve your family during this trip?

· How does your family typically spend the day and the day after the holiday?

· How does your family typically open gifts?

· What family traditions do I need to be aware of and will be expected to participate in?

· How does your family play games?

· What are two topics of conversation that I can enter into with your family that would bless them (or any topics to be avoided)?

staying local...

· If visiting, how long do we stay at the host's home (or each host's home)?

· If hosting, how long do we want our guests to stay? How can we best communicate this expectation?

· If hosting, how do we want to take advantage of this unique opportunity to lead?

· If hosting, do you feel like we are approaching the responsibilities of hosting as a team? If not, what can I do to help relieve some of the burden you feel?

· If visiting/hosting, what are you most looking forward to?

· If visiting/hosting, what are you most fearful of?



Thriving During the Holidays

Lance & Mandy Sisco

Communicate _____

Come up with a _____

Count the _____

Text in your questions to **214-814-0481**

6 tips to go from survive to thrive

_____ **why he came.**

Mark 10:45, Philippians 2:3-4

Know where your _____ is found.

John 15:5, Jeremiah 15:16

Seek the _____ of God, not man.

Galatians 1:10

Be _____, slow to _____, abounding in _____.

Psalms 145:8, Colossians 4:6, Matthew 9:36, Romans 12:16-18

_____ **the best.**

Isaiah 11:3-4, Proverbs 25:8; Proverbs 14:17

Keep the _____ thing, the _____ thing.

Matthew 6:21, Matthew 6:33

Text in your questions to **214-814-0481**

Holiday Date Night Ideas

Panther Island Ice - Coyote Drive-In, Fort Worth

This is the only outdoor ice skating rink you're going to find in North Texas. It's usually heavily decorated and you can skate to popular Christmas music! Random events and Santa visits will be planned during its duration. November 21, 2014 – January 19, 2015.

Celebration of Lights - Southern Methodist University

Celebration of Lights kicks off the winter holiday season by lighting the Christmas tree and Main Quad on Monday, December 1. The community sings songs of the season, enjoys live performers, and hears the Christmas story read by the SMU President, Dr. R. Gerald Turner.

A Christmas Carol – Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre

'Tis the season to be jolly, when last season's sold-out, family-favorite, holiday production of A Christmas Carol returns to the Wylie Theatre. Full of traditional Christmas hymns and songs in fresh, toe-tapping musical arrangements, joyful bursts of choreography, and eye-popping special effects, A Christmas Carol is Dallas' newest "must-see" holiday tradition.

Lone Star Christmas - Gaylord Texan Resort

1.5 million twinkling lights, 15,000 ornaments, a 54-foot-tall rotating Christmas tree, more than 2 million pounds of hand-carved ice sculptures in *ICE!* featuring *The Nutcracker*, Kung Fu Panda ice slide, and other exclusive holiday events and attractions. Visit the Gaylord Texan Nov 13 – Jan 3.

Neighborhood Christmas Decorations Tour – Highland Park, TX

Every year Highland Park residents go all out with decorating their homes for Christmas. Jump on a carriage ride, cruise through the neighborhood with friends or rent a limo to see the sights. Be sure to make a stop in Highland Park Village to see the tree lined streets covered in lights.

Parade of Lights – Downtown Grapevine

The largest lighted Christmas parade in North Texas with more than 100 lighted floats and marching bands. Thursday December 5th in downtown Grapevine.

12 Days of Christmas - Dallas Arboretum

12 Days of Christmas is new to the Dallas Arboretum this year. There will be big, 25-foot gazebos containing famous characters from classic carols. These characters are animated and the gazebo itself will be decorated to fit each scene. Special events will be planned throughout the holidays. November 22 – January 4.

Gift of Lights – Texas Motor Speedway

This is one of, if not, the most popular events off of 35W. The drive through display boasts over 2 million L.E.D lights. It's also free!! November 26, 2014 – January 1.

The Texas Christkindl Market - Next to Globe Life Park in Arlington

This 4th Annual Christkindl Market means excitement and fun experience for all. Enchanting outdoor family market in the tradition of those held throughout Germany during the Christmas season. While strolling the Market visitors view and enjoy exquisite handmade gifts, unique ornaments, rare European fabrics, German delicacies like brats, goulash, potato pancakes, gingerbread, and baked goods. November 28th-December 21st

Holiday helps | Creative gift ideas

- Make fun t-shirts using iron-on letters (Michael's or Jo-Ann)
- Instead of buying a gift for everyone in the family, perform a "drawing" where each family member chooses a name from a hat and only buys a gift for that one person (setting a price limit).
- Make homemade applesauce (www.todaysletters.com/search/label/Recipes)
- Give your "gifts/talents" to others:
 - Do you bake well? Give a coupon for a free birthday cake.
 - Are you a CPA? Give a coupon for a free tax return preparation.
 - Do you kick butt at Yoga? Give a coupon for one-week of free yoga lessons.
 - Are you handy around the house? Give a coupon for 4 free hours of work done to their home.
 - Everyone is *really* good at something, think of **that** thing and give it away as a gift for Christmas.
- Buy a huge bag of coffee beans (Costco, Sam's, etc), buy brown paper coffee bags (Michael's, Jo-Ann) and create your own coffee brand to give away as gifts (i.e. decorate the bag with your brand).
- Make chocolate dipped pretzel rods with sprinkles.
- Find something at a flea market or vintage shop to re-purpose (picture frame, vase, etc).
- Buy a huge box of dry pancake mix and cinnamon (Costco, Sam's, etc). Add a teaspoon of cinnamon to every one cup of pancake batter, package individually and give the gift of cinnamon pancakes.
- During Thanksgiving, learn as much as you can about your parents and in-laws childhood and search Dallas' local vintage shops for items that will positively remind them of their childhood.
- While home for Thanksgiving, steal some old family photographs (that have not been framed) and get them framed.
- Buy your spouse a journal to start writing love letters back and forth to one another.
- Make a Christmas ornament to commemorate a funny story or memory from the past year.
- Buy vintage coffee mugs from a yard sale, flea market, or re-sale shop, make some homemade marshmallows and buy some instant hot chocolate. Take one coffee mug, one packet of hot chocolate and several homemade marshmallows, put them together and give away as a gift.
- Have fun: *Operation Yard Sale Christmas* - everyone has to buy their gifts from a yard sale and spend no more than \$20.
- Buy an old journal or notebook and re-purpose it as a cookbook (i.e. hand write or cut and paste your favorite recipes and leave some blank pages for the recipient of the gift to add to the collection).
- Make donations to your favorite charities in honor of your friends and family.



**GIVE
and
GO!**

**LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SERVE
DURING THE HOLIDAYS?**

Serve with our ministry partners

See watermark.org/holidayserve for opportunities to serve at our partner ministries during the holidays and beyond.

Operation Christmas Child • November 30 - December 7

Make a gift-filled shoe box using the instructions at watermark.org/holidayserve. Drop off boxes at Watermark.

*Find out more about service opportunities at
watermark.org/holidayserve*