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<b>Theme: Finding space for Love at Christmas</b>	<b>Date: 9 December 2012</b>
<b>Scripture</b> 1 Corinthians 13 	<b>Comment</b> <b>1 Corinthians 13 – a Christmas Version</b> <b>If</b> I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I’m just another decorator. <b>If</b> I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I’m just another cook. <b>If</b> I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing. <b>If</b> I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir’s cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point. <b>Love</b> stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn’t envy another’s home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. <b>Love</b> doesn’t yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn’t give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can’t. <b>Love</b> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust,

	but giving the gift of love will endure.
<p><b>Prayer (as a couple):</b>  Father God, thank you for the celebration of Christmas, for your gift to us and thank you for the love that we have for each other. Amen</p>	<p><b>Prayer (for others):</b>  We pray for _____ and _____. Please help them in this busy season and surprise them with their love for each other. Amen</p>
<p><b>Final quote:</b>  Let's approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush.</p>	

**Remember others will also be praying in this way this week. Together and with God we can make a difference.**

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