

I'll Still Be Home for Christmas: Character at Home

How can I grow in Christ-like character this Christmas? (Matthew 1:18-21 CSB)

1. Give the gift of mercy. (Matthew 1:19 CSB)

Remember that mercy is God giving people what they need, not what they deserve. (Matthew 1:20-21 CSB)

How can I show mercy?

- Practice patience.
- Pursue reconciliation.
- Prioritize compassion.

2. Walk my circumstances with the gift of God's presence.
(Matthew 1:22-25 CSB)

What does it mean for God to be with us? (Galatians 5:22-23a NLT)

Brother Lawrence: "The most holy and important practice in the spiritual life is the presence of God – that is, every moment to take great pleasure that God is with you."

How can we give others the gift of our presence this Christmas?

- Give them our **time**.
- Give them our **attention**.
- Give them our **intention**.

3. Practice consistent obedience to God in the big and small things.
(Matthew 1:22, 24-25a CSB)

Always remember what's in The Name! (Matthew 1:25b CSB)

Because God is with us, we do not need to fear what is ahead of us.