

Message Notes | Christmas: It's Complicated

Part 2: The Mix of Emotions

2 Samuel 7:1-16

→ dealing with emotions

**#1 Christmas is a season that _____ our
_____ and _____.**

→ factors that contribute to emotions at Christmas

→ How do we handle God's plans being different than our?

→ David had plans - **vs. 1-7**

#2 _____ plans are not always _____ plans.

→ God sometimes says "no"

→ God reminds David of blessing - **vs. 8-9**

**#3 Even in the midst of _____,
there is always _____ of God's _____.**

→ God's promise of a future King - **vs. 11-16, Luke 1:32-33**

**#4 Christmas is an _____ time of year. _____ pro-
vides the way for you to experience _____.**

→ He is with you - **Ps 34:17-18**

Group Questions | Christmas: It's Complicated

Part 2: The Mix of Emotions

2 Samuel 7:1-16

1. Christmas is a season that amplifies a person's feelings and emotions. What is one of your happiest memories of the Christmas season?

What is one of your saddest or most disappointing?

2. Many people celebrate Christmas, but don't believe in Jesus or follow Him. Why do you think the Christmas season is so attractive...even to those who aren't Christians? As you listen to people's answers, can you ever relate?

3. **Read 2 Samuel 7:1-7.** David had what seemed like a good idea. And yet, God's answer was "no." Has that ever happened to you? What have learned from that situation?

4. Imagine a God who gave you everything you ever asked for. What would you like or dislike about Him?

5. A loving God can say no and still be a loving God. What are some reasons that the most loving thing God could do is to say "no" to your plans? (If you're having trouble, think of your life as a parent.)

6. Why do you think that we have the tendency to focus more on what God hasn't given us than on what He has?

7. Compare **2 Samuel 7:16** with **Luke 1:32-33**. Jesus was the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises to David. What difference does it make in your life that Jesus is your King with an eternal kingdom?

8. **Read Psalm 34:18.** Share at least one way that this verse helps to bring peace to your Christmas season?

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→ dealing with emotions

#1 Christmas is a season that amplifies our feelings and emotions.

- factors that contribute to emotions at Christmas
- How do we handle God's plans being different than our?
- David had plans - **vs. 1-7**

#2 Good plans are not always God's plans.

- God sometimes says "no"
- God reminds David of blessing - **vs. 8-9**

#3 Even in the midst of disappointment, there is always evidence of God's love.

- God's promise of a future King - **vs. 11-16, Luke 1:32-33**

#4 Christmas is an emotional time of year. Jesus provides the way for you to experience peace.

- He is with you - **Ps 34:17-18**

Bible Reading for Today

2 Samuel 7:1-16

After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

³ Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you."

⁴ But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?' ⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'"

⁸ "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

"The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."