CHRISTMAS REBOOT

Reawaken the Holiday

WEEK 3

- **What's one of the worst Christmas presents you've ever received? What did you do with your gift?**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:8-20 (NIV)

Key Thought: There are three things distracting us from the real meaning of Christmas:

1.) The Presents
2.) The Decorations
3.) The Traditions.

- **What things are distracting you from the true meaning of Christmas?**
- **In what ways have we over-complicated Christmas?**
- **If the shepherds were to see Christmas in America after viewing the baby Jesus in the manger, how might they react to what Christmas has become in our culture?**
- **How can your family make the message of Jesus' salvation to the world known this holiday season?**
- **How could your family make the manger the central decoration for Christmas this season?**
- **How could your family make the Christmas story more significant to your holiday celebration?**
- **Imagine what would happen if you gave up something important this Christmas and instead used that time to worship Jesus as a family. What kind of impact might that have on you and your family? What difference might in make in your overall experience of Christmas this year?**

Final Thought: Clear away some of your junk by giving up at least one thing this Christmas that will help you focus more on Christ's birth. Don't let yourself be so distracted by the lights, the parties, the fancy decorations, and the gifts to such a point that you forget about Jesus, the baby who was born in a manger that was the Messiah sent by God to change the world.