

A Message from Travis Dean
December 2013

I recently spent a few days in the hospital thanks to a case of acute appendicitis. I distinctly remember the first time my children came into my hospital room following my laparoscopic surgery. They seemed a bit out of sorts, glancing at me and looking around the room. Meanwhile I was a bit out of sorts as well having been separated from them throughout the ordeal. Seeing Abigail's uncertainty about what to do with herself, I invited her to come and sit with me on the bed. She happily did so and there was just enough room for us to sit snuggled together. Elijah then edged a bit closer. I held out my hand to him and he eagerly grasped on. Somehow being close made us all feel much better and connected once again.

After Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Eden, the human race was disconnected from God. However, God wasn't content to allow things to remain this way. John 1:14 says, "*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*" He came, as it were, and sat down right beside us. I love how Hebrews 2:14 describes it: "*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same.*" He chose to look like us and feel what we feel in order to get closer to us. As Paul says in Romans 8:38, 39, nothing can separate us from Him now.

As you make plans for the Christmas season, don't miss the enjoyment of sitting next to God. Snuggle up on the couch with His Word in your hands. Be still in the quietness of the early morning and listen to a musical rendition of our Savior's birth. Don't limit yourself by the clock. Don't try to be productive. Just enjoy sitting snuggled together with God.

**Scripture references taken from the King James Version*