



“Examine, Exult, Edify”

By KUMARI. Esther Mariam Ninan

Dear members of Azhikkakathu Family,

As we enjoy the cozy glow of Christmas and get ready for the New Year, I want to share a special greeting with you. Even though the world can feel a bit scary right now—with people arguing, prices going up, and sad news on our phones—Jesus gives us a perfect map for our lives in John 14:1–7. My prayer is that you look past the decorations to find a life built on Jesus, the "Way, the Truth, and the Life."

♪ Examine: A Life of Savoring Life's Purpose

The first step is to Examine our hearts and stop letting them be "troubled." In a world full of "doom-scrolling" and stress, Jesus gives us a radical command to trust Him. Savoring your purpose means slowing down to realize that your life isn't just a series of problems to solve. Because Jesus said He is "preparing a place for us," we know our lives have a huge, eternal value. At Christmas, God showed us that He cares about our messy, real-world lives by coming to earth as a baby. As the New Year starts, remember that your identity isn't about your grades or your political team; it's about being known and loved by the Creator.

♪ Exult: The Purpose of Life that Radiates Life

Next, we are called to Exult, which means to live with a joy that "radiates" to everyone around us. Many people think we can only fix the world with new laws or social rules, but those don't always bring life. True life comes from following "The Way." This means being a light in a "cancel culture" by choosing to give grace instead of being mean. Just



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like the star led the Wise Men, a life filled with the "Living Water" of Jesus acts like a beacon. In the New Year, your goal can be to move beyond just "getting by" and instead become someone who brings kindness and healing to the social divides in your school or neighborhood.

♪ Edify: The Purpose of Life that Glorifies the Heavenly Father

Finally, we live to Edify, which means to build up the world in a way that shows off God's glory. Jesus said that when we know Him, we "know the Father also." This is our ultimate destination. While the world tells us to focus on "self"—selfies, self-help, and being famous—the Bible tells us to be like a window that lets people see God. We glorify the Father when we help people who are lonely or treated unfairly. As the Christmas lights come down, remember that you aren't walking an uncharted path. You are following the One who is the Way, and every step you take to help others builds a bridge to the Father's love.

Merry Christmas and a Spirit-filled New Year to you all!