

Ideas for a Life Group Christmas

Idea #1: Icebreaker—Christmas Characters

There are many characters, real and imagined, that are part of our Christmas celebrations. With which of the following do you identify most, and why—Mary, the Grinch, Joseph, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, the shepherds, Frosty the Snowman, or the wise men?

Idea #2: Icebreaker—Christmas Priorities

Discuss this question: If you were to coach a group of people who had never experienced Christmas, what would you tell them are absolute musts to enjoy the holiday season? Why?

Idea #3: Fellowship—Christmas Photos

Ask each person to bring a Christmas photo and talk about it with the group. It could be of anything from their family to their football team which is headed to the playoffs. This is a great way to get to know each other in ways you don't normally talk about in a regular meeting.

Idea #4: Outreach—Different Kind of Gift Exchange

Instead of a white elephant exchange, have your group adopt a family in need and ask each person to bring a gift they will give. Wrap the gifts together and pray for God to bless and provide for the family you've adopted.

Idea #5: Worship—Christmas Carol Readings

What you need: 5 candles, matches, and a CD of Christmas carols with the lyrics printed out for each person. Assign the following readings to those who feel comfortable reading aloud. Begin with a fairly dark room and give each narrator an unlit candle. Pray together. Then light the first narrator's candle and ask him or her to read by the light of the candle in his/her hand. When they finish reading, have them light the second narrator's candle. Continue until everyone has read their part. Conclude your time of worship by singing Christmas carols together.

Reading #1:

In the little village of Bethlehem,
There lay a Child one day, and the sky
was bright with a holy light o'er the
place where Jesus lay. Alleluia! O how
the angels sang. Alleluia! How it rang!
And the sky was bright with a holy
light, 'twas the birthday of a King!
The Birthday of a King.

(by W.H. Neidlinger)

Reading #2:

O holy night the stars are brightly
shining, it is the night of the dear
Savior's birth; Long lay the world in
sin and error pining, 'til He appeared
and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of
hope the weary world rejoices, for
yonder breaks a new and glorious
morn! Fall on your knees! O hear the
angel voices. O night when Christ was
born! O night divine! O night, O night
divine! O Holy Night.

(by J. Dwight)

Reading #3:

O come, thou Dayspring, come and
cheer our spirits by Thine advent
here; disperse the gloomy clouds of
night, and death's dark shadows put
to flight. O come, thou Wisdom from
on high, and order all things far and
nigh; to us the path of knowledge
show, and cause us in its ways to go.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all
peoples in one heart and mind; bid
envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the
whole earth with heaven's peace. O
Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Reading #4:

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, You are
the Joy of every longing heart. Come,
Thou Long-Expected Jesus
(by Charles Wesley)

Reading #5:

Joy to the world! The Lord is come,
let earth receive her King; let every
heart prepare Him room, and heaven
and nature sing. Joy to the world! The
savior reigns: Let men their songs
employ; while fields and flocks, rocks,
hills and plains repeat the sounding
joy. No more let sins and sorrows
grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found. Joy to the
World.
(by Isaac Watts)