Various Passages

This week, consider taking a break from your normal Community Group routine. Below are some suggestions to help you make your group time memorable during this special time of year.

CONNECT (PICK ONE, OR USE ALL THREE!)

- Think of 3 or 4 people you are close with. If you could give them anything for Christmas, and money were no object, what would you give them? Why?
- There are lots of Christmas movies both classics and new favorites. If your year was a Christmas movie, which one would it be? Why?
- The wise men followed the bright star to find Jesus, the Savior. Who/what was the "star" that drew you, or is now drawing you, to Jesus?

PLAY (CHOOSE ONE OR TWO GAMES AND PLAY THEM AS A WHOLE GROUP - KIDS TOO!)

- Candy Canes: Play this Christmas version of the card game, "Spoons," by using candy canes instead of spoons.
- Christmas Carol Pictionary: Played just like regular <u>Pictionary</u>, but players illustrate Christmas carols or characters.
- Ornament on a Spoon: Rather than balance an egg on a spoon, in this Christmas-themed relay race, you balance an ornament on a spoon.
- Who Am I? Write famous Christmas characters on post-it notes on stick one on each person's forehead, then everyone tries to guess who they are by asking other people yes or no questions.

WATCH (GATHER IN THE LIVING ROOM TO WATCH THIS CHRISTMAS CLASSIC)

• Charlie Brown Christmas: Watch and discuss Linus' explanation of the true meaning of Christmas!

READ (DIVIDE THE CHRONOLOGICAL CHRISTMAS PASSAGES UP AMONG YOUR GROUP AND READ THEM IN ORDER)

- John 1:1-5, 9-18; Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7; John 1:9-13; Luke 2:8-20; John 1:14-18; Matthew 2:1-12; Isaiah 53:2-6; John 3:16-17
- · Which part(s) of the Christmas story amaze you the most? Why? Which parts do you tend to overlook?

SING (GRAB AN INSTRUMENT TO SING ALONG WITH, OR JUST USE YOUR VOICES!)

- Check out this website to print out Christmas song lyrics for your group.
- While you're at it, talk about the history and origins behind some of the most well-loved Christmas songs.

PRAY (TAKE SOME TIME TO PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS AND HOW HE HAS BLESSED YOU THIS YEAR)

• Thank you God for sending Your Son on one glorious night to be born a virgin, to live a perfect life and to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you that he rose from the dead three days later and that this Christmas and every Christmas we can celebrate the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Thank you for the blessings and joys, the trials and challenges of this year. Help me to be more like Jesus next year. Amen.

