

Christmas **AT THE MOVIES 2018**

MESSAGE GROUPS - **ELF** - DECEMBER 2

LEADERSHIP THOUGHT:

While Christmas is often a time of excitement and joy, it can be a hard time for many. As you lead, be aware of those in your group who may be hurting or in need of encouragement this year. Who (either in your group or outside the group) can you intentionally serve this Christmas? Think of ways as a group to spread joy, whether through OCC Shoeboxes or something as simple as serving cookies to your neighbors!

ICEBREAKER:

What is your most favorite Christmas movie of all time?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read aloud **Matthew 1: 22**

This verse reminds us of the truth that God wants to be WITH us! He has given us His presence.

- **Q:** *What are ways you can pause to remember the gift of "God With Us" amidst the busyness of the Christmas season? (Leaders: Help your group get very practical with this question!)*
- **Q:** *We are all at risk of "losing sight of what's important", but no one is ever too far gone from God's love to be rescued. Where have you seen this truth at play in your life or the life of someone around you?*

Read aloud **Romans 12: 2**

God invites us in to be a part of His purpose, and reveals that He offers a transformed way of living.

- **Q:** *If the people closest to you (co-workers, family, etc.) were asked what you really care about, what would their answer be? Do you add positivity to a room or do you add to negativity?*
- **Q:** *How does thinking about others first instead of yourself change the way you approach life?*

CLOSE:

Challenge your group to respond either out loud or in a private moment of reflection.

- **Q:** *Where can you spread God's love this Christmas? What are practical ways to demonstrate an "others first" attitude and encourage those around you?*
- **Q:** *Who is someone that seems "too far gone"? Pray for God to work specifically in their life and pray for God to change your heart to truly believe that everyone can be rescued.*