

Christmas **AT THE MOVIES 2018**

MESSAGE GROUPS - HOME ALONE - DECEMBER 9

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:

Have you ever taken a trip with friends or family that didn't go quite as planned? Share with the group!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read aloud **Romans 12: 8** - this verse explains the hope God has for the relationships in our life.

- **Q:** *Think about the one or two closest relationships you have - what are the things in life that make it difficult at times to "live at peace" with those you care about?*
- **Q:** *What do you think the "as far as it depends on you" means in this verse? How can you apply that?*

We don't struggle only with relationships on earth, but we also have a relationship to maintain with our Heavenly Father. Satan would want us to believe at times that we have no choice but to live in regret; however, God promises us that He exists to restore our relationship with Him.

- **Q:** *We only truly experience the fullness of God's love and peace when we are fully surrendered to Him. What things can be obstacles to us living this way?*
- **Q:** *Jesus sacrificed everything to restore His relationship with us - how does this model how we should approach relational rifts and regret with those in our life?*

CLOSE:

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

- **Q:** *Where does a relational rift or regret exist with someone in your life that you care about? How can you exercise the "as far as it depends on you" to restore that relationship?*
- **Q:** *What part of your life is not fully surrendered to God? What do you need to lay down in order to be fully living in His peace?*