

Media



✓ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the videos and music listed. Links are provided on this sessions webpage.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ Group

Show the *Bible Background Video* followed by the “White Christmas” and “Christmas Story” trailers, then use any or all of these questions to promote discussion:

- How do these video clips “fit” or “clash” with the scriptures or the interpretation here?
- Seeing as how these trailers offer an affirmation of a special view of Christmas, what would that view be?
- In what ways does your congregation affirm and/or challenge such a view?
- How does your congregation’s view of Christmas affect the way it does things?
- In what ways do you think your congregational view of Christmas may be viewed by the rest of your community and why?
- What kinds of things does your congregation do in order to continue to celebrate the presence of the Christ child after January 6 (Epiphany) signals the end of Christmastide?
- Given the various interpretations of this season held by various sectors of our society, what is the best thing a congregation can do to place Jesus at the forefront of its year?

✓ React to This

Play the “Arthur Christmas” and “Miracle on 34th Street” trailers, stopping briefly after each for any comments, then ask questions like:

- How do you think these media pieces moments apply to our previous conversation and why?
- What kinds of challenges does the Christmas season present to you personally and how do you deal with them?
- In what ways do the secular aspects of Christmas enrich or challenge your enjoyment of the holiday?
- How does the celebration of wonder and imagination that often accompanies the season affect your perception of it?

- How does the delicate balance of joy and despair that often accompanies the holiday affect your life?
- If Christmas is special in that it celebrates Jesus’ presence breaking into the world, how does someone go about using this as a reason to make the rest of the year special?

✓ Close

Invite people to share a way in which they have been blessed in this season (other than the obvious) and close with a prayer that the group can be blessings for others as reminders of God’s presence among us.

By David Adams

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