

# *Dancing up a Storm This Christmas*

Life Group Agenda for the week of December 4<sup>th</sup> through December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**WELCOME (5 min)** – Welcome everyone. This is a time for us to focus outward on our relationships with one another. Share the Goals and 1 Guideline. This week, we are beginning a new series titled, “A *Cajun Christmas*.” Let’s **stop and pray** for our church at this time.

**WORSHIP (15 min)** – This is a time for us to focus upward on our relationship with the Lord. Prepare a creative worship time that can be enjoyed by Children as well as adults/teens (*you will be releasing the Children to their Kids Slot time after the worship*).

**WORD (45 min)** – This is a time for us to focus inward and discover what the Lord is saying to us individually and collectively through His Word. **This week’s truth to be shared: We must make sure that even in the midst of having a good time during the Christmas season we don’t compromise our relationship with the Lord.**

**INTRODUCTION: What is the most fun you’ve had during a Christmas season OR what is your favorite family tradition during Christmas (Past or Present)?**

Allow 5 – 7 minutes for this question.

**OBSERVATION: Read 1 Corinthians 10:31-33. The apostle Paul starts verse 31 by answering a question. What was the question he was answering? What was his answer?**

Its important for us to learn to evaluate the context when we are reading a passage in the Bible. Finding the question Paul was asking is important to understand the direction he was giving. The group should look all the way back to verses 23 & 24 to see the point Paul was making. Not everything is beneficial for us, and the way we influence others should impact the decisions we make. So this Christmas season we have to make sure when we are having fun and Celebrating we don’t negatively impact others view of the Lord Jesus.

Spend about 3 – 5 minutes on this question.

**UNDERSTANDING: What are some ways that you could compromise your commitment to the Lord during the Holiday Season? List as a group**

Many times during office, neighborhood or family Christmas parties you will find someone who makes a number of foolish decisions. This might include getting drunk, having an inappropriate romantic relationship with a co-worker or stranger, outbursts of anger or resentment or bitterness, or using foul language or exhibiting a critical spirit or gossip. We want people to explore the different ways they could compromise their relationship with the Lord during the Christmas Season.

Spend about 8 minutes on this question.

**UNDERSTANDING: What is the long-term impact to our testimony as Christians when we set a poor example in front of others?**

Its important for us to understand that the cost of our decisions to compromise our testimony can be grave and life-changing for others. If we become a stumbling block to others then how will

will ever be able to lead them to the Lord. Its important to understand that God & others are watching everything that we do. And the others in our lives who don't have a relationship with the Lord are using our witness to determine whether or not they will choose to follow the Lord as well.

Spend about 5 minutes on this question

**UNDERSTANDING: According to V. 33 Why is it important for us to consider others in our decision making process?**

Paul said that the reason why he was seeking not only his own interests but the interests of others as well is so that they might be saved. He understood that the simple choices about the meat he ate and other things could impact a person's spiritual decision regarding eternity. We want to have the same attitude as Paul when we are celebrating with others during the Christmas season.

Spend about 5 minutes on this question.

**APPLICATION: What are some steps that you could take during the Christmas season to make sure you don't compromise your relationship with the Lord in front of others?**

Take a few minutes to discuss the criteria discussed in this weekend's message regarding whether a decision is worth making.

**4 Questions in determining the impact of a decision:**

**1. Is it helpful?**

- "Everything is permissible for me" – but not everything is beneficial." - 1 Corinthians 6:12

**2. Does it get me in its power?**

- "...I will not be mastered by anything" – 1 Corinthians 6:12

**3. Will it cause others to stumble?**

- "When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak consciences, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall" – 1 Corinthians 8:12-13

**4. Is it glorifying to God?**

- "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" – 1 Corinthians 10:31

Spend about 12 minutes on this question.

**WITNESS (15 min)** – This is a time for us to focus outward on our ministry to the world.

- ❖ Share any praise reports from your FRAN list that you've been praying for.
- ❖ Haiti Mission Trip: April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. Total cost: \$1,350. Deadline for application, references, and \$200 deposit is January 8<sup>th</sup>. Ministry opportunities include: medical, orphanage, evangelism, and more.
- ❖ Don't stop... SERVE LIKE CRAZY, plan your Life Groups next serve event.
- ❖ Make Shared Ministry Assignments and then Fellowship together.

*(Now is the time to welcome the children back into the group and let them share something about what they've learned. Have a brief time of prayer with the whole group before fellowship).*