

Wrestling Gators This Christmas

Life Group Agenda for the week of November 27th through December 3rd.

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 we effectively represent the Lord Jesus, especially to difficult people this Christmas season.**

INTRODUCTION: What is the most difficult part of the Christmas season for you?

Allow 5 – 7 minutes for this question.

OBSERVATION: Read Colossians 3:12-17. This passage provides a perfect portrayal of what it means to *represent the Lord Jesus* (v.17). How does this passage address the question of *WHY* we should represent the Lord Jesus?

One reason we often fail to effectively represent Jesus during the Christmas season is that, amid all the stress, we tend to forget the essential basis for why we should represent Him. This passage reminds us in verse 12 that we were chosen by God to be His holy people, in verse 13 that the Lord forgave us, and in verse 15 that we, as Christians, are members of one body.

Spend about 3 – 5 minutes on this question.

UNDERSTANDING: What about the Christmas season tends to make it more difficult to represent Jesus? Why does that get under your skin?

People seem especially sensitive or susceptible to ordinary irritations during the Christmas season. Traffic is more frustrating, people are more annoying, and we are less patient in general. It’s a time when we’re relationally obligated to spend time with people with whom we don’t typically spend time with unless obligated. Encourage your group to have fun with this question while also being transparent.

Spend about 12 minutes on this question.

UNDERSTANDING: How does God want you to act toward or treat the people who are your friends and family during the Holiday Season? Do you think He wants you to treat difficult people differently than the easy to love? Why is this so difficult for us?

Christmas is a time when it's natural for God to gain the attention of people who are otherwise too busy for Him. Undoubtedly, God wants to use His people to draw the world's attention to Him. Yet too often His desires are frustrated by our own impatience with the difficulty of the season.

Spend about 12 minutes on this question.

APPLICATION: This passage portrays many different ways in which we can represent Jesus. Which one do you need to focus on this Christmas and how will that help you represent Jesus?

The passage mentions clothing oneself with godly virtues such as mercy, kindness, etc. (v.12). It mentions forgiving others (v.13). It mentions putting on love (v.14). It mentions living in peace (v.15). It mentions focusing on Christ's words, and singing psalms and songs (v.16). And it mentions acting as a representative of Jesus (v.17). Encourage your group to focus on developing one of these virtues during the Christmas season to be a more effective representative of Jesus.

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 23rd – 30th. Total cost: \$1,350. Deadline for application, references, and \$200 deposit is January 8th. 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).