

DECEMBER 2017 DEVOTIONAL IDEAS FOR SENIOR ADULTS

"The Christmas Season - A Time for Singing!"

Materials needed: A festive Christmas wreath or decoration at the front of the room (the facility may have a Christmas tree in the front of the meeting room), a Bible with the suggested Bible verses marked, song sheets printed with the first stanzas of the songs, "Silent Night", "Away in a Manger", "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "Joy to the World".

Ahead of time: Hand out suggested song sheets. Greet the seniors with a smile and a "Happy Christmas Season!"

DEVOTIONAL TIME

- **Open the devotional time with asking, "For what are you thankful during this Christmas season?"**
- **After a short time of discussion, pray, thanking God for the things that were mentioned in the answers the seniors' answers to the question.**
- **Distribute the song sheets, as you say, "The theme for today is, 'CHRISTMASTIME A TIME FOR SINGING'.**
- **Christmastime! Why do we celebrate Christmas? Because God loved us, He sent His Son, Jesus, to be born in Bethlehem. John 3:16 tells the wonderful story! Please quote it with me: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."**
- **Colossians 3:16: "Sing to The Lord with thankful hearts."**
- **So, with thankful hearts, let's sing "Silent Night".**
- **Christmastime! Why do we celebrate Christmas? Because God sent His Son, Jesus, who was willing to leave heaven and be born in a lowly manger. Luke 2:7: "(Mary) gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."**
- **Psalm 105:1-2: "Sing to God, sing praises to Him, tell of all his wondrous works."**
- **So, with happy hearts, let's sing "Away In A Manger" and be ready to tell our families and friends that we celebrate Christmas because God sent His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will have everlasting life!**
- **Christmas time! Why do we celebrate Christmas? Because Christ's birth was so wonderful that God sent angels to announce His birth. Luke 2:10, 13-14 An angel of The Lord said to the shepherds, "Fear not: for I bring you Good News of great joy that will be for all the people. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and earth peace, good will toward men."**
- **Psalm 30:4 "Sing praises to The Lord, ... and give thanks to His holy name.**

- So, with hearts full of praise to God, Let's sing "Hark The Herald Angels Sing".
- Christmastime! Why do we celebrate Christmas? Because we feel great joy as we think about the love that God and His Son, Jesus, have for us! I John 4: 9-10: "...the love of God was revealed by the fact that God sent His only Son into the world, that through Him we might live...God loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."
- The wise men traveled in search of Baby Jesus. Matthew 2:9-10: "...lo, the star went before then...till it stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."
- Psalm 95:1-2: "Come, let us sing to the Lord;...let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, let us joyfully sing to him"
- So, with joyful hearts, let's sing "Joy To The World."

CONCLUSION

- Christmastime! Why do we celebrate Christmas? Because God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus into the world so that WE could choose to have eternal life!
- Once more, with lets quote aloud together John 3:16.
- Pray, thanking God that JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON, and that we have happily, thankfully, lovingly, joyfully sung songs about the birth of God's Son!
- Christmastime! With happy smiles, let's sing "Jingle Bells" and end the song with, "O, what happy times we have. Thank You, God, for Christmas!"

A CRAFT IDEA: STAR-SHAPES TO CUT-OUT AND HANG ON CHRISTMAS-TREE LIMBS

Materials needed: 8½ x 11 inch Sheets of heavy white paper, three sizes of cardboard or poster-board heart-shapes cut out and ready to be traced, pencils, scissors, hole punch, thin red ribbon.

On his or her sheet of paper, ask each person to, with pencil, trace around the three star shapes and then, with scissors, cut-out the three shapes. In the tops of the three cut-out star-shapes, punch a hole with a hole-punch. Cut a six-inch strip of ribbon for each star. Carefully thread a ribbon-strip through the hole in each star. Tie the ribbon so that each star can be hung on the Christmas tree.

An additional idea: Brush glue on each star shape, sprinkle colored glitter on each one, and allow them to dry before hanging them on the tree.