

This Christmas session is designed for youth groups to run online but could be adapted to run in person. It has a range of activities so please pick from the options available and adapt them to suit your young people.

If you have any questions, please contact Christina on christinabaillie@connordiocese.org

## Set Up for the event:

Communicating to Families: Make sure everyone has given permission to gather online and that you send out the details for accessing the gathering to parents/guardians only. Invite young people to join online and encourage them to wear something fancy or dress up as if it is a special occasion.

**Packs delivered to young people:** To make the night feel special, why not deliver a small pack to each young person. It could include a Christmas Card and some sweets. Depending on the activities you plan as below, you may wish to include - Gingerbread House Kit, A Medal, Glo Sticks.

What do I need: A Christmas Playlist! Why not check out <a href="Engage Connor Youth on YouTube">Engage Connor Youth on YouTube</a> as we've made one for you!

Prepared the reflection and any games, including Christmas Memory Game cards if you choose to play this.



# **Christmas Memory Game**

Pick eight Christmas images (tree, gift, Santa, snowman, wreath, stocking, candle, gingerbread man), draw/print two of each, so you'll have a total of sixteen cards. Now place cards on the table in a 4x4 layout. Use a phone or other device to join the online call to show the cards. Each player gets a chance to pick a card, then try to find the match. When a player finds the match, they keep it, get a point and get to try for another match. Play until someone reaches the predetermined amount of points to win.

### **Christmas Pictionary**

Use the whiteboard on your Zoom event and ensure in your settings that all participants can use the whiteboard. Choose someone to start by drawing a Christmas themed thing, these can be sent by the leader to the individual using the chat function. Whoever guesses correctly draws the next one. A few ideas:

Wrapping Paper
Hot Chocolate
Wise Men following the Star
Christmas Lights
Decorating the Tree
Jesus in the Manger
Making Snow Angels
Carol Singing
The North Pole
Sleigh Ride



### **Awards for your Group**

One way to celebrate the end of 2020 is to give out awards to individuals in your group. Make sure everyone gets one and that they are all positive and encouraging. You might want to consider using <a href="Prestige Trophies">Prestige Trophies</a> to get medals made up for each person. This would make it really special.

Ideas for awards include: Most engaged Zoom face, Most active in the community, Most wins at socially distant or online games, Best at keeping in touch.

### **Gingerbread House Decorating**

Why not include a Gingerbread House kit in your goody bags? You can normally get these at a reasonable price at Ikea or bargin stores. Young people can make up their own icing and gather some decorations. You might want to encourage young people to decorate these with their families in advance and just have a show & tell part of the night, with your opportunity to pick a winner!

Alternatively, you could play some chilled music & all decorate them together over Zoom! People can chat away but its a lovely way of enjoying an activity together.

#### **Christmas Zoom Rave**

To end the night, why not have a Zoom Rave? To do this, you want to arrange a Christmas playlist with lots of fun songs to dance to. The host will share their computer audio and play the music. The rest of the participants ensure they are on mute! You might want to include glo sticks in the goody bags and get everyone to turn off their lights & dance along!



### **Bible Study**

Read John 1:1-18. Take some time together to consider this picture of light. Use these questions to write a short reflection that you can share.

What difference does it make shining a light into the darkness? How does this passage resonate with this year or what it happening in our lives right now? Therefore, what difference does it make to you that Jesus is our 'light to live by'?

Ask the young people to respond by thinking of or writing down for themselves, one thing which feels dark at the moment. Say a prayer together to commit these things to God and ask for us to see the light of Life in Jesus change and remake these places, people, things. Close your prayer by celebrating God's goodness and light that the darkness can never overcome.

#### **More Christmas Games**

Check out the Grow Games & Icebreakers App by Stuff You Can Use. They've got so many good games and you can search by a theme or the type of game you want to play. In particular check out Christmas Genuis and Christmas Trivia for some quiz fun.

We also have two Kahoot Quizzes available: <u>The Great Christmas Quiz</u> & our <u>Home Alone Quiz</u>.