

Useful websites

- <http://www.secretmotive.com/>
- www.skitguys.com
- www.simplyyouthministry.com
- <http://www.myfishbites.com/sessions-christmas.php>
- <http://www.ucb.co.uk/>

The Christmas Top 40

Then get every single song title into the Christmas story. If you can, make it a dramatised monologue where you play the part of Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, the Wise Men and so on. Use small costumes to change between characters eg a tea towel over the head to represent Mary. Here's an example from the 'Now 50' CD...

There was a couple from Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph. They were in love. One day Joseph found out Mary was pregnant. 'Hey baby!' (DJ Otzi), what's all this I hear? So you're 'Not Such An Innocent Girl' (Victoria Beckham) after all.. I hope you haven't had a 'One Night Stand' (Mis-Teeq).'

'Oh no Joseph' replied Mary, 'I'm A Slave For You' (Britney Spears) and no-one else. 'What If' (Kate Winslet) what the angel said is true and we are to be the parents of the Emmanuel.'

'True. Sorry I jumped at you Mary. After all I 'Can't Get You Out Of My Head' (Kylie Minogue). You're the only woman for me. Let's get married so this birth will be a 'Family Affair' (Mary J Blige).'

And so on... try it - it really works. This idea is courtesy of Simon Tuck of the Exmouth ICE Team who performed this idea at Exmouth Community College 6th form presentation, Christmas 2000.

The 12 days of Christmas

The 12 days of Christmas is a classic rhyme - why not adapt it to fit some of the young people in your group. Then get some or all of the youth leaders to sing it together - we did!

I'll show you the one we came up with and you can carry it on and adapt it.. all good fun! Do the lines in the style of the young person, for example our 'Joe Bloggs' is quite loud so we shouted his line. All the names have been changed to protect the innocent:

**On the first day of Christmas, Joe Bloggs texted me
'I'm gonna be late again' (he's also always late)**

**On the second day of Christmas, Gemma texted me
'John won't stop bouncing' (this lad's nickname is 'Tigger' from Winnie the Pooh)
'I'm gonna be late again'**

**On the third day of Christmas, Matt texted me
'Paul's got concussion' (he's always injuring himself!)
'John won't stop bouncing'
'I'm gonna be late again'**

**On the fourth day of Christmas, Laura texted me
'Girl's Cell Group are chatting' (they can't stop!)
'Paul's got concussion'
'John won't stop bouncing'
'I'm gonna be late again'**

**On the fifth day of Christmas, Jenna texted me
'Eat Fair Trade Chocolate' (one of this girl's favourite causes)
'Girl's Cell Group are chatting'
'Paul's got concussion'
'John won't stop bouncing'
'I'm gonna be late again'**

GO ON - Be creative and have some fun!

Christian Pick-up Lines

- 1) Nice bible.
- 2) I would like to pray with you.
- 3) You know Jesus? Me too.
- 4) God told me to come talk to you.
- 5) I know a church where we could go and talk.
- 6) How about a hug, sister?
- 7) Do you need help carrying your bible? It looks heavy.
- 8) Christians don't shake hands, Christians gotta hug.
- 9) Oh you are cold, Ecclesiastes 4:11
- 10) Did it hurt when you fell from Heaven?
- 11) What are your plans for tonight? Feel like a bible study?
- 12) I am here for you.
- 13) The word says "Give drink to those who are thirsty, and feed the hungry," how about dinner?
- 14) You don't have an accountability partner? Me neither.
- 15) Do you want to come over and watch the Ten Commandments tonight?
- 16) Is it a sin that you stole my heart?
- 17) Would you happen to know a Christian woman (man) that I could love with all my heart and wait on hand and foot?
- 18) Nice bracelet. What would Jesus date? I mean "do."
- 19) Do you believe in Divine appointment?
- 20) Have you ever tried praying at a drive-in movie before?
- 21) Excuse me, I believe one of your ribs belongs to me.
- 22) My friend told me to come and meet you, he said that you are a really nice person. I think you know him. Jesus, yeah, that's his name.
- 23) You know they say that you have never really dated, until you have dated a Christian.
- 24) Yeah I predicted David over Goliath.

Kids thinking

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's artwork. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "but no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

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My friend likes to read his two young sons fairy tales at night. Having a deep-rooted sense of humor, he often ad-libs parts of the stories for fun. One day his youngest son was sitting in his first grade class was the teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs. She came to the part of the story where the first pig was trying to acquire building materials for his home.

She said, "And so the pig went up to the man with a wheelbarrow full of straw and said, "Pardon me sir, but might I have some of that straw with which to build my house?"

Then the teacher asked the class, "And what do you think man said?"

My friend's son raised his hand and said, "I know! I know! He said 'Holy smokes! A talking pig!'"

The teacher was unable to teach for the next 10 minutes.

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A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy Father and thy mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy (the Oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

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An honest seven-year-old admitted calmly to her parents that Billy Brown had kissed her after class. "How did that happen?," gasped her mother. "It wasn't easy," admitted the young lady, "but three girls helped me catch him."

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One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?"

Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

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A three-year-old went with his dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother that there were two boy kittens and two girl kittens.

"How did you know?" his mother asked.

"Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."

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The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer; she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael. He's a doctor.'" A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher. She's dead."

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A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, he said, "Now, boys, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face."

"Yes, sir," the boys said.

"Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position, the blood doesn't run into my feet?"

A little fellow shouted, "Cause yer feet ain't empty."

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For weeks, a six-year old lad kept telling his first-grade teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house. One day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year old was obviously impressed, but he made no comment. Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event.

The teacher finally sat the boy on her lap and said, "Tommy, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?"

Tommy burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mommy ate it!"

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On the first day of school, the Kindergarten teacher said, "If anyone has to go to the bathroom, hold up two fingers."

A little voice from the back of the room asked, "How will that help?"

## **Top things at Christmas**

Get hold of some post-its and get the young people to write down some 'Top 5s' such as:

- 1. Top 5 Christmas traditions**
- 2. Top 5 Worst Christmas presents**
- 3. Top 5 Christmas singles**
- 4. Top 5 images of the Christmas story**

## **Christmas discussions**

The talk was a short one because we aimed it at non-Christians. It involved thinking of the impossibility of Santa Claus then moving onto the so-called 'impossible parts' of the Christmas story, seeing which ones the young people could come up with..

- 1. Mary being pregnant but not having had sex**
- 2. Angels appearing and giving messages from God**
- 3. Mary travelling miles on a donkey when pregnant and not giving birth until they arrived in Bethlehem**
- 4. A mere human being giving birth to Jesus, the Son of God**

From this we brought out the fact that God is way bigger than anything we can imagine and that God chooses to use humans like you and me for his Kingdom and glory. This Christmas, let's put Jesus back at the centre

## **Remix a classic Christian song**

Remix a classic Christian song or carol. I mean, re-do the music and change the words. We remixed ours using keyboards etc. but you could just use a piano, guitar or sing accapella style! Anyways.. here's our remix of the chorus of that delightful (puke..) Cliff song, 'Mistletoe and Wine' (sorry, Sir Cliff, you're a top man).

We all dressed up for this in hats, scarves and gloves and sang in a very cheesy way. Christmas jumpers are a good idea if you're going for the full-on look..

**Christmas Day, let's join hands and sway  
Everything's super, we're OK  
With shining little faces and big cheesy grins  
A time to eat quiche and confess all our sins**

**Christmas night, everyone's alright  
Watching TV and eating mince pies  
The Pastor is preaching, and I've gone to sleep  
A time to be lovely and have happy dreams**

**Boxing Day, not feeling OK  
Think I had too much to eat yesterday  
I've been in the toilet, I've taken some pills  
But I still feel awful, I still feel ill**

**New Year's Eve, time to receive  
The New Yrs Eve social with Jez, Helen, Ben & Steve (some of the youth leaders, replace)  
There's Waking Ned Part 3 & then there's Part 4  
Nah, we're only joking, it's Part 1 once more!**

**New Year's Day, I have stuffed my face  
Been up all night at Jez'n'Helen's place  
And now I'm shattered and I need to rest  
Gotta revise for my GCSE test**

**(All together now...)**

**Christmas time, mistletoe and wine  
Children sing in Christian rhyme  
With logs on the fire and gifts on the tree  
A time to rejoice in the good that we see**

## CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

Narrator - Once upon a time there was a boy and a girl and their names were Mary and Joseph. They were going to be married.

(During narration, cut to Mary & Joseph sitting looking at each other. Then..)

Joseph & Mary – (together) we love each other, we're going to be married.

Narrator - One day an angel appeared to Mary

(Mary doing her nails. Then cut to angel flying in flapping wings with ring around head)

Gabriel - I am Gabriel, an angel. You will have a baby boy and call him Jesus.

Mary – not another, I've already had three kids already, (this was specific to the youth leader playing Mary. You can use or edit with something similar). I mean.. OK then, as you say oh angel from heaven above

(Angel flaps off to music.)

Narrator– One day Joseph saw that Mary was getting a bit fat.

Joseph – are you getting a bit fat?

(Mary hits him)

Mary – No, I am having a baby.

Joseph – How did this happen?

Mary - well, when a man and a woman love each other very much..

N – Mary explained that God had sent an Angel.

Joseph – sounds a bit funny to me but OK then Mary my lovely wife to be.

Together – we love each other

(Mary & Joseph get on a play horse for children - going 'clip clop' like a donkey)

N - One day Mary and Joseph went to a new town. It was a horrible place, a bit like Plymouth (replace with local football rivals). Eventually they found a small farm and Mary had her baby.

Mary – (with cushion up her top, unconvincing) Ouch, oo, it hurts

Joseph - (watching the sky) Shut up, don't be so noisy..

Mary - oo, the baby is coming

(Throws cushion away and someone else hands Mary a doll)

Mary - look it's a baby

Joseph - wow, isn't she lovely..

Mary - (whispers) She!

Joseph - wow, isn't he lovely..

Mary & Joseph – we love our baby. We love each other.

N – One day some shepherds came to visit

Shepherd - (Towel over head. Makes sound effects of a sheep 'baa, baa' - just in case you didn't know what noise sheep make..) Shh, be quiet Dolly.. Dolly, stay there.. (talking to a sheep)

Shepherd – I have come to visit the baby Jesus

Joseph - it's a baby boy

Shepherd - wow! (walks off)

N – And then some wise people came along

Wise Man – (wearing wise hat - a bit of paper with the words, 'Wise man' written on. It is upside down) We are wise men. The square root of 4 is 2. Yes.

N – and that is the Christmas story of how Jesus was born.

## The perfect woman

Once upon a time, a perfect man and a perfect woman met. After a perfect courtship, they had a perfect wedding. Their life was, of course "perfect."

One snowy, stormy Christmas Eve, this perfect couple was driving their perfect car (a SUV) along a winding road, when they noticed someone at the side of the road in distress. Being the perfect couple they stopped to help.

There stood Santa Claus with a huge bundle of toys. Not wanting to disappoint any children on the eve of Christmas, the perfect couple loaded Santa and his toys into their vehicle. Soon they were driving along delivering the toys.

Unfortunately, the driving conditions deteriorated and the perfect couple and Santa Claus had an accident. Only one of them survived the accident.  
Who was the survivor? (Scroll down for the answer.)

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The perfect woman survived. She's the only one who really existed in the first place. Everyone knows there is no Santa Claus and there is no such thing as a perfect man.  
\*\* Women stop reading here, that is the end of the joke. Men keep scrolling \*\*.

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So, if there is no perfect man and no Santa Claus, the perfect woman must have been driving. This explains why there was an accident.

## " Four Christmas Gifts

It's easy to get caught up in the craziness of shopping, parties, gift giving and family obligations. In fact, it's exhausting just thinking about it all! Imagine however, that when you wakened this morning you found four gifts you'd overlooked and tucked away under the tree. You open the first one, and you are filled with an awesome sense of peace you've never known before. You unwrap the second, and experience an overpowering love for others - even those who've wronged you. You open the third, and you're infused with a faith that enables you to trust God for anything - even things you previously considered impossible. Finally, you unwrap the fourth gift, and receive such grace, that you can handle criticism and hurt without retaliating.

Sound far-fetched? Not at all! These are the gifts Paul says God wants to give you. Listen: 'May God give peace to you...and love, with faith...May God's grace...be upon all who sincerely love our Lord Jesus Christ' (Eph 6:23 TLB). What gifts! And you won't have to return any of them the day after Christmas: they're guaranteed to last a lifetime. Remember, God's already given them to you - all you have to do is open the packages and start using them. It's Christmas Day, the day that changed everything. Why don't you take a moment and thank God for all His wonderful gifts - especially for the gift of His Son. After all, without Him you'd have nothing to celebrate. Right?

## **The gift of a child's love**

'Not long ago a friend of mine punished his three-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight, and he became upset when she tried to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree.

'Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father on Christmas morning and said, "This is for you, Daddy". He was embarrassed by his earlier over-reaction. But his anger flared again when he opened the box and found it empty.

He yelled at her, "Don't you know that when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside?" The little girl looked up at him in tears and said, "Oh, Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it, I filled it with my love and I wrapped it up just for you." He was crushed. Quickly he put his arms around her and begged for her forgiveness.

'My friend told me that he kept that gold box by his bed for years and whenever he got discouraged, he'd take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who'd put it there.

In a very real sense, each of you parents has been given a gold container filled with the unconditional love of us children. There's not a more precious possession anyone could hold.'

# Holiday Magic

## HOW BIG

Characters: Den Leader, any number of Cub Scouts with presents.

Setting: Den Leader is standing on stage. If desired, a decorated Christmas tree may be used as backdrop. Boys enter one at a time.

First boy: Merry Christmas, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_. I brought you something. (Hands her a box.)

Den Leader: That's very nice, Bill, but there was no need....

Second Boy: Hi, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, look at the present I brought you. (Hands her a bigger box.)

Den Leader: Well, Bob.....

Third Boy: (Rushes in) Here's a present, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_. Boy, it's heavy!

Den Leader: Well, Tom ... what a surprise. You really didn't have to...

Fourth Boy: (Rushes in carrying box almost too large to handle) Look what I have! Boy, are you going to like it!

Den Leader: Oh dear! Boys...

Fifth Boy: (Pushing box across floor...too heavy to carry) Here's a Christmas gift from me, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ It's really neat!

Den Leader: My Godness...

Sixth Boy: (Pulling a wagon on which is a box much too large to carry.) Wait till you see this one! I really spent a lot of money!

Den Leader: Boys, you are all very kind. But I think we should have a talk about all this. Where's Jim?

First Boy: He's coming. I don't know what is taking him so long. He doesn't have a very big gift. In fact, I didn't see him carrying anything.

Second Boy: Here he is now. (Jim enters.)

Jim: Sorry I'm late for the meeting, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_. I stayed after school to finish your Christmas present.

Third Boy: I don't see a present. Look at all the BIG presents we brought. I can't even see yours. (Smirks.)

Jim: Mine isn't very large, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, but I hope you'll like it. It's a poem.

All: What a present! (Lots of Laughing.)

Den Leader: May I see it, Jim. (He hands her the paper and she reads:)

I have no money, so I guess I'm poor  
But I have friends, that is for sure.  
I have no money so I couldn't buy  
The things I'd like, though Christmas is nigh.  
I have no money, but I don't care  
Cause I have you, with whom to share  
A happy Christmas Season.  
I have no money, so I was sad;  
But I looked around, and I was glad.  
The things I have are worth a lot;  
Some kids don't have the things I got.  
I have my dad, I have my mom,  
I have my dog--he loves me some.  
And in my den I've learned to share.  
Not things or money, but love and care.  
For each of you I wish as much,  
That you'll each know the work of such,  
As family, friends and all the things  
That last when Christmas gifts are gone.

## **SANTA KNOWS ABOUT RUDOLPH'S NOSE**

Characters: Santa Clause; 6 Elves (wearing Santa hats made from red crepe paper); Rudolph (wearing cardboard or paper band around head with horns attached.)

Scene: Santa sitting in an easy chair by fireplace reading newspaper. It is Christmas Eve.

Elf 1: (Comes running to where Santa is sitting and breathlessly says:) Oh Santa, come here. Bad news I must tell. Rudolph's nose is all frozen. Not a thing can he smell!

Elf 2: (Running in as other elf exits.) Hey Santa, listen here, while sad news I tell you. Poor Rudolph's nose is cold and it's turning all blue.

Elf 3: (Hurrying in as 2nd elf leaves.) Oh Santa, I've come to tell of Rudolph's plight. He has a cold in his nose that has put out his light!

Elf 4: (Follows 3rd, etc.) Santa, Oh Santa! I'm sorry to tell. Rudolph's nose is all warm and he doesn't feel well!

Elf 5: (Same as above) There's something I must say, but I'd really rather not. You see, poor Rudolph has a nose that's very hot!

Elf 6: (Same) Santa, please come! See Rudolph's burned nose! It's all black like charcoal, not red like a rose!

(After all elves have entered, spoken their parts and left, then Rudolph comes in and Santa holds up his hand to keep him from speaking.)

Santa: (While Rudolph hangs his head.) No! Don't say anything, but please let me guess. Your friends were all lying, so you've come to confess. I knew all the time that it was only a plot. For how could your nose be both cold and hot?

Rudolph: Well you see, Santa Claus, I was feeling quite low, and decided on our trip I didn't want to go. But now I've learned a lesson. The truth is always best. It could have saved me from this embarrassing mess!

(Santa pats Rudolph on the head. Rudolph smiles and scampers off stage.)

## **SANTA'S BIG SECRET**

Characters: Santa Claus (Scout uniform under Santa suit), Reporter, Numerous elves (Scout uniforms under jackets).

Scene: Elves are in background working making toys or putting toys in sacks. Santa is directing them when reporter comes out with microphone.

Reporter: This is Scoop Smith the roving reporter for radio station KCUB, on the scene here at Santa's workshop. Santa, may we have a word with you please?

Santa: Oh sure, we're real busy getting ready for our deliveries. What can I do for you?

Reporter: All of our listeners want to know how you got into the gift-giving business. Did your father give gifts or what?

Santa: Well, it all began when I was eight years old...I just started doing good deeds, you know, helping people and such...and it just became a habit.

Reporter: Good deeds, huh, that sounds familiar. Say, what is that under your jacket?

Santa: That's my best kept secret...(Opens jacket)

Reporter: A Cub Scout Uniform!!!!!! You're a Cub Scout?

Santa: Yes, well, no. I WAS a Cub Scout, then a Boy Scout, and then an Explorer. I wear this uniform to remind me of where it all started...way back years and years ago. I just loved helping other people and doing good things.

Reporter: Well, that explains your involvement, but how do you get all of these elves to help you?

Santa: Show the man.....(Elves open jackets to show Cub Scout Uniforms.)