

# Series: Christmas

## Session Title: Super Galactic Christmas

Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Students: \_\_\_\_\_

### Materials Needed:

- ☐ Double-sided copies of pages A64-65 for every student
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Eggnog and other Christmas snacks

### Lesson Objectives:

As a result of this light-hearted lesson, students will be able to...

- State the things about the Christmas tradition that mean the most to them.
- Recognize that many of the things that consume our time over Christmas are not overly necessary or meaningful.
- Begin to realize that in order to get the most out of Christmas a little prioritisation is necessary.

### Pastoral Objectives:

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### Lead In:

You could show the students a three-minute clip from the Jim Carrey movie *The Grinch*. The scene that would work best is at the start of the movie when the Grinch comes to visit the village while everyone is shopping for presents. Before playing the movie ask the students to identify the reason why the Grinch does not like Christmas in the village as they watch the clip. After the clip, decide on a group answer for why the Grinch does not like Christmas. This is a fun lead in to get students thinking about Christmas traditions, so no need to dwell on the answer too long.

## Super Galactic Christmas:

You could introduce this section by saying something like:

*I have shocking news for you! NASA has developed and terraformed a whole new planet fit for human habitation. How very clever. They are putting together a team of cultural experts to transplant humanity to this new outlet. You have been selected to participate in the Christmas Cheer Committee otherwise known as the CCC. Your job is to decide which symbols and traditions of Christmas will be transplanted to the nether-regions of space. The planet we are going to is quite small so there will not be room for all of the symbols and traditions we have here on earth. You are allowed to take: four Christmas tree decorations, three non-religious/quasi secularised symbols (e.g. Santa, mistletoe, outdoor lights, etc.), and 2 festive traditions. You must explain why you have chosen each symbol as all decisions of the CCC are required to be approved by the ITMSCOHROTPE Subcommittee. (Interplanetary Trans-Migrational Sub-Committee of Humanoid Residents of The Planet Earth).*

Put the students in pairs or groups and give them copies of the handout and pens. Instruct them to follow the handouts on the first side of the page.

Once the groups have completed the task, compile all the answers. Find out which are the most popular answers by conducting a vote or having students up to the board to check off their group choices.

## Super Efficient Christmas:

Transition by saying something like:

*I have more shocking news for you! A planet of super-efficient aliens from the planet YNAMREG has taken over the earth. How very clever. As part of their plan to homogenise human culture they have set up the SCFCA (Subcommittee for Cultural Affairs). As one of their first initiatives, the SCFCA has decided that we spend altogether too much time celebrating Christmas. Presents are purchased in August, parties begin in November, and countless hours are spent learning the deep mysteries of snowman animation and present delivery through the medium of Christmas television specials. The madness must stop, says the SCFCA. As such, the committee has mandated that no more than twenty total hours may be spent on the celebration of Christmas. Please turn your handout over and follow the instructions printed there.*

Once the groups have completed the task, compile all the answers. Find out which are the most popular answers by conducting a vote or having students up to the board to check off their group choices.

## Conclusion:

Consider wrapping up the evening by saying something like this:

*Christmas has become a very complicate holiday. There are parties and songs, rituals and habits that are very much a part of the way Christmas is celebrated. I wonder though if sometimes the baby Jesus doesn't get smothered underneath all the baked goods, television specials, and discarded wrapping paper. What really matters at Christmas? To get the most out of Christmas you will probably need to decide what matters most to you and then spend some time prioritising your activities accordingly. Don't lose the Christ in Christmas!*

If you have more time, ask students to think of either one thing they will do this season that seems unessential or one concrete thing they will change this season as a result of this conversation.