

Christmas After-Party

By Lee Yates

The giving and receiving of gifts at Christmas can be a lot of fun, but what happens to those gifts after the holiday is over? How do those gifts impact our lives? How might they impact the lives of others?

For

Teen Family

Season

Winter, sometime after Christmas

Needed

Paper, pencil, handout, envelope, and computer with internet access



Prepare in Advance

- Make a list of all the presents you received at Christmas
- Make a list of all the presents you gave at Christmas

Activity Plan

1. Gather as a family in a comfortable place for conversation. Each person should have their lists of gifts given and gifts received.
2. Each person is invited to look over their list and put a score next to each gift based on how much use it has received since Christmas. Use a scale of 1 – 10 with 1 being the least use.
3. Everyone now shares their two or three most used and least used gifts from the list. This may be a little tense if gifts that are unused came from someone in the room. Honesty is a good thing so encourage open communication and be compassionate in your listening.
4. Allow time for conversation if there are any surprises. Use the following questions to help dive deeper.
 - How do you feel about the amount of money spent on presents for you based on how much you use them?
 - How do you think the gifts you gave are being used?
 - How do you feel about how much you spend on gifts compared to how they will be used?
 - If you didn't spend the money on presents, how would you spend it?
5. Visit www.adventconspiracy.org and watch the promotional video.
6. Give everyone a copy of the Living Water International worksheet.
7. Ask this questions and allow time for conversation:
 - If you had seen this video before Christmas, how would it have impacted your gift giving?
 - What would you like to change for next Christmas?
8. Make a Christmas plan as a family. Tape it to a box of Christmas decorations so it will be easily found next holiday season.

Water Facts from Living Water International

- 783 million people in the world do not have access to safe water. This is roughly one in nine of the world's population (WHO).
- 1.8 million children die every year as a result of diseases caused by unclean water and poor sanitation. This amounts to around 5000 deaths a day (UNDP).
- LWI projects providing safe water and hygiene education at an average cost of twenty dollars per person, for a generation (LWI).
- The simple act of washing hands with soap and clean water can reduce diarrheal diseases by over 40% (UNICEF).
- Water-related disease is the second biggest killer of children worldwide, after acute respiratory infections like tuberculosis (UNDP).
- The weight of water that women in Africa and Asia carry on their heads is commonly 40 pounds, the same as the average airport luggage allowance (UNDP).

Water-related Diseases

- At any given time, half the population of the developing world is suffering from one or more of the main diseases associated with inadequate provision of water and sanitation (UNDP).
- Around 90% of incidences of water-related diseases are due to unsafe water supply, sanitation and hygiene and is mostly concentrated on children in developing countries (WHO).

Water Use

- The average North American uses 400 liters a day. European uses 200 liters (UNDP).
- The average person in the developing world uses 10 liters of water every day for their drinking, washing and cooking. (Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council).

Education and Economy

- 443 million school days are lost each year due to water-related diseases (UNDP).
- Households in rural Africa spend an average of 26% of their time fetching water, and it is generally women who are burdened with the task (DFID).

