

# ENCOURAGING LEADERS DURING THE WINTER MONTHS

## Outside Activities for Servants Team and/or Leaders Council

- Springtime social activity that includes spouses
- Winter retreat with the Leaders Council
- Cook a Saturday morning breakfast for the LC
- Servants Team outings for fun:
  - Escape Room
  - Bowling party and pizza a.k.a. “Holy Rollers!”
  - Host a “Doldrums Dinner” with games and dinner together
  - Game night!
    - “Telestrations” – A game for all ages/genders
    - “Minute to Win It” games can be easily replicated and found online
    - “Catch Phrase” game or others that use interaction for fun!

## Encouraging attendance with competition!

- The Core Group who achieves best attendance gets a prize! Over a period of several weeks class attendees get a “ticket” when they arrive on time at an opening. The Core Leader collects tickets from class members when they arrive at CG time. At end of the pre-determined time period, the best attendance is announced and CG gets a prize, such as dessert from the ST delivered to their CG.
- Have a MAP theme. Make Attendance a Priority! At the beginning of teaching time, the TD announces which CG had the best attendance percentage for that morning/evening. The CG leader gets the Globe Trophy that can be proudly displayed within the CG at the next week’s session. The trophy is relinquished to TD prior to next teaching, so that the next CG for that following week with the best attendance can proudly receive/display the Globe trophy.

## Games to liven up the winter doldrums of a class ☹️

- Kick openings off with a quick version (5 minutes) of a game to segue into an opening. (Jeopardy, Concentration, Family Feud, Cell Phone scavenger hunt, Minute to Win It).
- Use a game as your opening for announcing the next year’s study!

## “Mix it Up” within the Leaders Council or class with these fresh ideas

- Encourage leaders with devotions or discussions that remind them of the sacredness of their calling and importance of staying connected with Jesus.
- During LDG time have leaders take the Gary Chapman Love Languages test or the Gary Smalley Personality type test to enlighten leaders about each other, to show how God has made them unique and to affirm how He uses their personality types in their roles.
- During LD time ask the question “What do you do to combat the blues during winter months?” and benefit from the ideas of others.

- For a few weeks take 5 minutes during LD time for leaders to write down things that they are thankful for. Scripture encourages giving thanks as part of God’s will for us! And it realigns our focus onto the goodness of God. At the end of the assigned weeks, take time to review the lists of gratitude.
- Draw names among leaders and ask them to secretly or openly encourage that person. Possible ways to encourage include writing a card, texting a word of encouragement, giving an inexpensive gift card for coffee or treat, or sending an email with something funny or encouraging. Simple gestures bless the recipient.
- During LD time take a walk around the host church campus. Pair up leaders and have them pray for the class, host church and each other as they walk.
- Have an LD time where leaders discuss/learn about how to handle difficult scenarios. Prior to this time let them submit their scenarios to ST for answers. Use a “Hey Google” or Hey Alexa” approach to asking/answering the questions to keep it lively! ST members present the questions to the LC as if asked “Hey Google (Alexa), what does a CL do when.....?” Then share answers to the scenarios as if the response was received via Google or Alexa. Let this be a joint LD time with CLs and CYTs so that they can learn about what other leaders contend with.
- Have class days during winter where a particular attire will liven things up: Wear red/pink for Valentine’s Day, wear jersey/T-shirt for favorite sports team, all green for St. Patricks day, sweat shirts/ work out clothes for “Sweatin’ it out to the End” day.
- Create a lively approach to “Bring a Friend” with these ideas: create a Facebook event for the day; have printed invitations to hand out; create a healthy competition (with a promise of coffee/danish or dessert) for CG that has the most visitors!