



GLOBAL COFFEE BREAK

DISCOVERING TOGETHER

Global Coffee Break Holiday Prep National Leaders Meeting

October 08, 2020 2:00-3:00 pm EDT

Led by Program Manger-Juan Sierra [email: jsierra@crcna.org]

Co-led by Raise Up Director- Sam Huizenga

Leaders shared updates of how their groups are going since they started for the fall. Some holiday ideas were shared. Thank you to everyone that was able to come and participate. **Another national call will be held in January 2021 with a date to be determined.**

Announcements:

- Save the date for the Perfect Peace Online Retreat on November 13-14, 2020. Read more information on our website and registration is coming soon!
<https://discoveryourbible.org/news>
- The new Genesis study is now available in print and digital format. The book of Genesis will be broken into three studies, with part 2 and 3 coming in the spring. Visit <https://discoveryourbible.org/shop> to order for your group.
- Craft and Cultivate writing seminar for experienced CB leaders. If you are interested in learning how to write our materials, this class will teach you how. Successful graduates will be invited to serve on a Discover Your Bible writing team or advisory team. For more information visit:
<https://discoveryourbible.org/events/craft-cultivate>
- More online workshops will be held on a regular basis. You can visit the events section of our website to see any upcoming dates.
<https://discoveryourbible.org/events>
- If you are looking for a small study to do before Christmas then consider “The Gift of Christmas” study and leader guide. It is now available in English and Spanish. Visit the shop area to order today.
<https://discoveryourbible.org/christmas>
- The national conference, called The Connect Conference, has been moved to August 2021 due to the pandemic. More information will be coming later in the year.



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A ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

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Group check-in

- Most groups reported that they are meeting in-person and by Zoom. Group members choose which way they want to meet ahead of time.
- Multiple leaders reported that the ladies are appreciative of being able to meet even with restrictions.
- One leader reported that her group meets in the sanctuary of the church and they pass around a microphone in order to communicate. After the big group time they break up into small groups.
- One leader reported that she had to combine her morning and evening group but that is working out.
- Some leaders felt that some people were hesitant at first to try Zoom but it is now working out and some people are opening up more.
- Some groups use the warm up questions for fellowship time for their discussions before the start of the meeting.
- One group reported that everyone agrees to keep their masks on while they meet and only takes them off if everyone is in agreement to do so.
- One leader is encouraged that young moms are feeling comfortable coming to Zoom meetings even with young children in the background.
- One leader says her group has been meeting in the church parking lot but is concerned about the cold weather as the seasons change.
- Multiple groups reported that they are unable to have coffee and snacks due to Covid restrictions. Other groups are having members bring their own food.

Holiday ideas

- Neighbors can pick up a gift at the church. Or if possible, drop off a gift at someone's house.
- Host a "holiday coffee break" time. People bring their own coffee and choose pre-packaged treats to eat together at a distance.
- Virtual holiday cards. Look up ecards and find a company that you can use to send them.
- Holiday theme masks made by your group for your community.
- This idea may be more for your church than your group: Drive-in holiday play. People stay in their cars while you present a Christmas play.
- Online holiday crafts and or food. Create a video meeting where people create crafts by following the instructions through zoom. Make a list ahead of time of needed materials and provide to your group. The same thing can be done with holiday food.
- Order food from a restaurant and have it delivered for your holiday party. Make sure the orders are pre-packaged for individual orders for safety.



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- Give toys to a local school or charity that gives away toys for kids at Christmas. Same thing can be done with taking food donations for a local food pantry.
- Mail out Christmas cards with Scripture to your CB members.
- Watch a holiday video together while maintaining social distance. Buy pre-packaged popcorn snacks to distribute.
- Put on a holiday skit for your group by doing a reading together which allows for social distance.
- Also see pages 4-5 for another Christmas idea shared by Judy Merritt.

Leadership Resources:

- If you are struggling and looking for hope, here's a great blog post from Marian Lensink: <https://network.crcna.org/coffee-break/praying-hope>
- An encouraging Coffee Break story on discipleship: <https://network.crcna.org/evangelism/making-disciples-who-make-disciples>
- Article on leadership from Outreach Magazine: Leading Well in Uncharted Waters
<https://outreachmagazine.com/features/leadership/60129-leading-well-in-uncharted-waters.html>
- Neighborhood Hope During Covid-19:
<https://outreachmagazine.com/resources/58538-neighborhood-hope-during-covid-19.html>
- 8 Practices to Help Small Group Newcomers Feel Like They Belong:
<https://churchleaders.com/smallgroups/small-group-articles/383229-8-practices-to-help-small-group-newcomers-feel-like-they-belong.html>

Covid-19 Resources:

- The official Global Coffee Break Facebook is called Coffee Break Groups. You don't need a Facebook account to access. There are videos on Zoom tips and how to use Zoom on our Facebook.
- Zoom has multiple training videos on how to use the app:
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-video-tutorials>
- Visit the Covid-19 resource link from the CRC: <https://www.crcna.org/covid19>
- Other resources to help your church can be found on this website:
<https://coronavirusandthechurch.com/>
- Resources for safety, signage, and health for churches:
<https://www.outreach.com/>

Another national call will be held early January 2021 with a time TBD.

Stay tuned to our official Facebook and our website for more information.



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Christmas Devotion December 14, 2019 Coffee Break

Judy: I got a phone call from a local newspaper to conduct a survey that they want to print in their paper. They are looking for the true meaning of Christmas. I was hoping you could help me.

I need somebody to take notes for me. Kari or Tina (give clip board & newspaper pages)

Mariah What would you say is the meaning of Christmas?
I would say it's the spirit of giving. Giving gifts to our family and friends and of course giving to the poor and needy. Yes, I would say it's the spirit of giving.

Judy: Thank you, Mariah Giving is certainly evident at Christmas time and important all year.

Carolyn would you like to share your thoughts on Christmas?
I think that Christmas is about family. Families get together over Christmas, spend time together and have wonderful family meals. People travel from all over to be together.

Judy: Thank you, Carolyn Relationships ARE very important.
I'll be sure to quote your comments. Carolyn (assistant) did you get her name?

Tammy, please tell us about the meaning of Christmas.

Well, I think the true meaning of Christmas is love. We need to love each other, be kind and considerate. The Hallmark movies say it best ~ attend tree lighting ceremonies and fall in love with your former high school sweetheart. Everyone's happy and full of love...

Joan. WAIT Isn't the true meaning of Christmas about the birth of Christ???

Judy: Oh, oh we might be on to something. By the way I watch all the Hallmark movies.
Joan tell us more. Who is this Christ?

Haven't you heard? His name is Jesus, the Savior of the World.

Judy: Savior? What does that mean?

Joan Back when God created Adam & Eve, He wanted good things for them and gave them everything they could imagine as well as a close relationship with Himself. But Adam & Eve wanted to do things their own way so they sinned against God. Instead of walking with God, they hid themselves because of their disobedience. People have been walking away from God ever since.

God says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. BUT He already had the solution to that....forgiveness!



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THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD IS BORN



Volume # 1

The Community Gazette

12-14-19

BREAKING NEWS

The Savior of the world is born in the town of Bethlehem, in the city of David in the region of Israel! A virgin named Mary gave birth to a bouncing baby boy. His name is Jesus because He will save His people from their sins. Angels announced the birth to the shepherds in nearby fields. They came running to see if it were true and sure enough it was! There He was lying in one of the animal's feeding troughs wrapped in swaddling clothes just as the angels had said. They were so full of joy they couldn't contain themselves. They spread the word and everyone was amazed. They were giving glory to God and praising Him for all they had heard and seen. What a story!!!



The True Meaning of Christmas

Reported by J. Merritt

Recently a gathering of women who came together for a Christmas luncheon were questioned about the true meaning of Christmas. Mariah, a young woman with a baby, said that the meaning of Christmas is the spirit of giving. She said it was important to give gifts to family and friends but also to the poor and needy. A woman named Carolyn E. said that Christmas was about family, spending time together and sharing meals. Still another woman, Tammy D., said it was all about love and that we should be kind, considerate and love one another. She even mentioned the Hallmark movies, the tree lighting ceremonies and falling in love with former high school sweethearts. She said everyone there is happy and full of love...just then, Joan S. interrupted her saying "WAIT" isn't the true meaning of Christmas about the birth of Christ? The conversation continued about Jesus and how He is the Savior of the world. The meaning of that statement was questioned and the answer came by going back in time when God created Adam and Eve. They sinned against the God who loves them and could no longer walk beside Him. But God's plan had always been about forgiveness. He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save his people FROM their sins and to save them FOR Himself so they could walk with Him forever! WOW! Do you believe that?

Send your comments to yibelieveinjesus.com