



Leader Guide

Rate your enthusiasm for Christmas on a scale from Ebenezer Scrooge to Buddy the Elf. How ready are you for the Christmas season?

Talking about Adopt-a-Family in October may feel a little odd, but we all know that Christmas has a way of sneaking up on us. Use this opening question as a way to introduce the topic of Adopt-a-Family and help your group understand the importance of planning ahead.

Watch the AAF [video](#) with your group in order to learn more about Adopt-a-Family.

Consider the following passages:

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:16-18

How can participating in Adopt-a-Family this year help you grow in your faith? How can it help your life group grow in community?

We may not be “rich” compared to some of the wealthiest people in America, but compared to the rest of the world, most of us would be considered “wealthy.” Adopting a family at Christmas time is a practical way for all of us to show that we care for our brothers and sisters in need, and it gives us an opportunity to be generous. When we are generous, we build God’s kingdom and train ourselves not to put our hope in wealth.

Take a few moments as a group to practice listening prayer. Ask God, “What do you want me to do?” and then journal your thoughts in the space provided:





LIFE GROUPS

Share your thoughts with the group.

Share with the group that you understand if their family circumstances this year don't allow them to help with gift-buying and let them know that there are many ways to be involved that are not financial in nature (contact the family and make arrangements for delivery, bake some cookies, etc.).

Based on what God showed you, how will you participate in Adopt-a-Family as a Life Group this year? Make sure you discuss:

What size of family (or how many families) is God asking your group to adopt?

The goal is to spend \$50 per child and \$25 per parent. Depending on how God moves the members of your group, you may be able to adopt a small family, a large family, or an entire children's home. Don't feel the need to come to a final decision about this today, though. Give your group members some time to think, pray, and discuss this opportunity with their families and then ask them to share their commitment with you privately.

What challenges (time, finances, attitudes, etc.) will your group need to navigate in order to participate as a group?

It may be impossible for your group to do each step of the Adopt-a-Family process together because of time limitations. Some people in your group may not be able to give much or at all. It may also be prudent to talk about the nature of urban poverty—like the video said, those in poverty may not always look "poor" to us. Take some time to discuss these challenges (and others). How can everyone participate in the process? How can the group maintain a Christ-like attitude toward the family or families that are adopted?

How can your group share leadership as you prepare, shop and deliver gifts?

Find out what passions and strengths are present in your group members and allow those people to take the lead on portions of the project. We encourage you to be creative with your group and to find ways to integrate your Adopt-a-Family activities within your normal life group time. You could shop separately and then have a gift-wrapping party during life group one week. Or you may choose to deliver all of the gifts together and then have a time of celebration and reflection afterward. Make it work for your group!

Have questions about Adopt-a-Family? Need ideas for how to move forward? Check out www.centralaz.com/LGAFF for more resources!

