**Small Group Ministry**

**Group Session Plan**

**December Holidays**

**Opening Words**

May the spirit of this season help us to find our way through the noise and turmoil of the days ahead into the heart of this holiday itself~ to its quieter joy and its peace.

May we learn that we cannot hear the songs until our own hearts learn to sing them.

May we, whose needs are so great, know how close we are to what we seek, and how often the things we want so desperately are ours already.

May we be strong enough for the joys and the pains of love; and may we, with quiet persistence in our hearts, learn to enjoy the small happenings of our days and hours and find in them the meaning that touches us most deeply, that moves us most profoundly.

May we find that life is good. Amen.

Charles Stephen

**Check-in/Sharing**

**Topic/Activity**

We all bring memories to the December holiday season, of Hanukkah observances or of Christmases passed, and we bring high hopes and expectations as well.

1. What are some of our stories?
2. What expectations do we hold that have, perhaps, brought disappointment in the past?
3. What expectation or intention can we bring to this year's festivities which may bring happiness into the world for ourselves and for those we love?

**Likes and Wishes**

**Closing Words**

Let us open our hearts to this Season, Open them to all the hope that stands against a world that wastes with evil things; open them wide enough for gentleness in a world that is bitter and harsh; for loveliness in a world that is desolate; for faith and its joy and the song of its joy, that sings in the presence of God.

A. Powell Davies

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