

Small Group Ministry
Session Plan
WINTER IMAGES

Need: Suggest bring writings and pictures of winter.

Opening words: “Thoughts of Winter” by Alice M. Gifford, *Sailing for Home*, 2015, p.126.

The snow will fall, will drift,
will heap, will fly and fill
the sky, settle and lie still.
The nights must bring more cold, the winds will fret and scold
and yet
the lilac buds are set— come spring they will unfold.

Check-in/Sharing: Because the session today is an hour rather than the usual two hours, check-in will be brief, like a few sentences. How is it with you today?

TOPIC: Winter Images

<p>“Dolphin in the Wood Pile”</p> <p>In the cooling of the evening One more log to keep the fire, We nod We read We meditate on the message in the flame. I see a mighty ocean Now, a fleeting image of our boat a dolphin on the bow wave pulling us along. So quickly it came, Now only smoke Our woods are full of dolphins The wood box has a few I'll carve one now to set it free Then bring it home to you. James McKendry, Feb 2015</p>	<p>“Tears”</p> <p>As the days grow shorter as the thermometer falls snow comes to cover our roof. As if in sadness at the loss of balmy days, tears gather then fall in a parade of drops one sticking to another. to form a crystalline row of soldiers. A million drops consolidate an army. By mid winter a cascade of white and blue, a solid torrent of ice flows from our roof anchoring itself, stalactite to stalagmite, in a ground hugging frozen pond.</p> <p>Tear by tear our shining winter monument flows to the sea Soldiers with ragged shirts break away filling the pool with little ice bergs crocuses and spring snow drops appear. Jim McKendry, March 2015</p>
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Check-out/Likes and Wishes: How was the session for you? What are you taking with you?

Closing: “Winter Night” by Alice Gifford, *Sailing for Home*, p.127

The fire falls low
The dog lies close.
The cat creeps in
So sleeps the house.