DISCUSSION **NOTES**

Christmas AT THE MOVIES

CONNECT MEMBERS TO ONE ANOTHER

1. "A Charlie Brown Christmas" is one of those shows that everyone seems to have seen at least once. Tell the group a popular movie or TV show that you have never seen.
2. Did you (or your kids) ever have an object you were attached to as a child (like Linus and his security blanket)? Was it a painful process to give it up, or did you eventually outgrow the need for it?
3. Share a funny story or meme that you recently came across that made you smile.

CONNECT MEMBERS TO GOD

1. Think about the fears you have that keep you up at night. Do you struggle with handing them over to God? If this is an area of your spiritual life in which you have experienced growth, what encouragement can you offer to others in your group to help them "pick up Jesus"?
2. In his message, Pastor Chuck talks about the shepherds in the field who received the first announcement of Jesus' birth. Why was it significant that He chose this particular group to hear the good news before others?

Read this passage from "God is In the Manger" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Who among us will celebrate Christmas correctly? Whoever finally lays down all power, all honor, all reputation, all vanity, all arrogance, all individualism beside the manger; whoever remains lowly and lets God alone be high; whoever looks at the child in the manger and sees the glory of God precisely in his lowliness. And that is the wonder of all wonders, that God loves the lowly... God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God marches right in. He chooses people as his instruments and performs his wonders where one would least expect them. God is near to lowliness; he loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and the broken.

3. When you think of "celebrating Christmas," can Bonhoeffer's definition be reconciled with our culture's consumer-driven approach to observing the holiday? In what ways can we align our celebrations with God's values?
4. Name some examples of "lowly" people — either in the Bible or in world history — that God has used as His instruments.

LIFE APPLICATION

To spread good cheer, challenge yourself to do two random acts of kindness for strangers and consider supporting local businesses in your neighborhood (suggestions below).

1. Let someone else have the parking spot
2. Help a neighbor take down their holiday decorations

Good News Brewing
O'Fallon, MO
330 Sonderen St.
(636)294-6593

Defiance, MO
2886 S MO 94
(636)544-2965
GoodNewsBrewing.com

B. Hall's Family Grill
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3782 Monticello Plaza
O'Fallon, MO 63304
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