



YES - Recommended Resources October 2011 (including some early recommendations for Christmas!)

1. "**Faith Tutorials**", ideas for engaging young people with faith, the link below is for their Christmas resources:

www.faithtutorials.co.uk/faithtutorials.co.uk/Tutorials/Entries/2011/5/27_Christmas.html

2. "**12 Words of Christmas**", by Louie Giglio. Louie is one of the best communicators of the Gospel message to young people and adults. Get this and use with your youth group, let these words impact them with a fresh telling of the Christmas message! This DVD will be reviewed in the next edition of the Chichester Magazine, but if you cannot wait until then, here is a preview:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbErS-sk8E

3. "**Injustice, The Poor, Taking Action**", from Tearfund. The following link takes you to a page on the Tearfund youth site where they list a whole bunch of resources (films and books) which can be explored with older youth and young adults . . . note the classifications of the films – some great stuff here to get young people thinking and acting to make a difference in their world:

www.youth.tearfund.org/campaigning/top+tips/resources.htm

4. "**Youth Leaders Resources**", from Cafod. Cafod is the Catholic Aid Agency for England and Wales, they have some quality resources on global issues for youth leaders to use with their young people: www.cafod.org.uk/resources/youth-leaders/ggyl-youth-group

5. "**Machine Gun Preacher**", a film due out in the UK from 4th November. Yes, that is the right title. The key question for me, and how I might use this film with older young people and young adults is "do the ends justify the means?" Can doing good become our God, that we forget for whom we are doing the good in the first place? The subject of the film is a drug dealer with a love for guns and violence who, once converted, goes on a mission to rescue the child soldiers of Sudan . . . Check out the review from Christianity Today here:

www.christianitytoday.com/ct/movies/reviews/2011/machinegun.html?start=3 in addition, Wingclips has some free clips from the film that you could use to explore various themes that the film addresses, check these out here: www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/machine-gun-preacher

6. "**Top Toys for Christmas 2011**", here is a list of 50 top toys for Christmas (arghh!) a couple of things you will notice – 1. They are not cheap (despite the economic crisis there seems to be an expectancy that we will suspend "normal" living when it comes to Christmas presents etc). 2. The familiar names that continue to sell well (Bob The Builder, Lego, Barbie, Transformers, Thomas the Tank Engine . . .), but also, "My First Tablet", arrives . . . yes, for your children, their own version of an Ipad! Top of the list on a bunch of prediction charts are the new "Fijit Friends" . . .

www.toyspages.co.uk/top-christmas-toys-2011

7. "**SGM Christmas Resources**", SGM Lifeworlds never disappoint! I can always count on them to have some downloadable resources to recommend . . . get yourself super organised for Christmas services, children's activities etc and visit their page where you can download stuff for free: www.sgmlifeworlds.com/christmas/downloads

8. "**Re:Jesus Christmas Resources**", a load of thought provoking material from Re:Jesus aimed at seekers . . . stuff to watch, stuff to download, images that you could use in presentations etc. Check all of it out: www.rejesus.co.uk/christmas TOP TIP, why not download one of the gospels (each is available for free as a PDF) and email out to your friends . . . ? Or send them the links so that, if they are interested, they can read Jesus' story for themselves over the Christmas period. My own crude suggestions for which would be best (and who for):

- Matthew (General, focused on Jesus' teachings)
- Mark (Quick digest, it is short and action packed . . .)
- Luke (General, focusing on parables and Jesus helping those in need)
- John (For a deeper look at why Jesus came, thinkers)

Get them here: www.rejesus.co.uk/site/module/the_four_gospels_free_pdfs

9. "**A Social Network Christmas**", from IgniterMeda. You can buy this, or simply watch it on Youtube . . . a contemporary retelling of the gospel story – great to use with youth groups. If you want to "capture" the video from youtube, you can simply type the URL into www.keepvid.com and download, you can then use it offline – the youtube clip has an IgniterMedia logo along the bottom, but it still looks good, watch it here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=sghwe4TYY18&NR=1

10. "**Ten Ages of Christmas**", What is the same today, what has changed . . . check out these stories through the ages of how we have celebrated Christmas:
www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/ten_ages_gallery.shtml

11. "**Two Cracking books for Christmas**", from Geraldine McCaughrean –
"The Jesse Tree" www.amazon.co.uk/The-Jesse-Tree-ebook/dp/B0050IQDT0/ref=ntt_at_ep_dpt_3
– a brilliant book to be read through Advent, so get hold of it now . . . can be read to children, or 8-11 year olds could read it themselves.
"Father and Son" www.amazon.co.uk/dp/0340882093/ref=rdr_ext_tmb – this is a beautiful book and needs to be read OUT LOUD!

12. "**R U Smarter than a Fly? Christmas Pudding**", Children will love this short video – it is disgusting (it has flies and dung heaps) but it also gently tells the Christmas story . . . go on, check it out: www.max7.org/resource.aspx?id=0ae2bbb9-a4ba-473d-bef5-476928b6cf3a