**The Spirit of Christmas – part 2**

**Getting the room ready – Leader’s notes**

**HOOK**

**1. How soon do you put up Christmas decorations? Do you put up outdoor lights? When do you take things down?**

**2. (For couples with children) What kind of adjustments did you have to make to get ready for your first baby?**

**3. Other than Jesus, who would you consider the greatest human of all time? Why?**

**BOOK**

**Read Luke 1:13-17**

**4. Is there anything you’ve prayed for a long time that God has never answered?**

**5. What does it mean for a child to be “filled with the Holy Spirit even before birth”? How might the filling or fullness of the Holy Spirit be considered the secret source of John’s greatness? Would fullness of the Holy Spirit change your life? How?**

**6. John’s name meant, “God is gracious.” What does your name mean?**

**7. How did John the Baptist help the nation of Israel get ready to meet Jesus?**

**8. Read Luke 1:19,20. Would you have believed the angel or faced months of silence? What’s the longest you’ve ever gone without speaking?**

**9. How are solitude and silence practiced by Zechariah and Elizabeth? What are the spiritual purposes of these spiritual disciplines? (**The purpose of silence and solitude is to be able to see and hear God more clearly. True solitude yields awareness of our deep relationship with God.). **Can we be silent and still not be tuned in to hear God’s voice?**

**LOOK**

**10. What do you still need to do to get ready for Christmas?**

**11. What Christmas wish would you like to come true this Christmas?**

**12. Have you ever prophesied over your children? How often do you pray for your children?**

**13. How can you make time for silence, solitude and confession? How can you transform your alone time to be alone with God?**