FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

ACTIVITIES TO CHOOSE FROM

SNOW FUN
If you live in the northern part of the country and have lots of snow on the ground, then you can build a large snowman outside and have a snowball fight.

WARM-WEATHER OPTIONS

INDOOR SNOWMAN
Divide the students into smaller groups of about three or four. Give each group a few rolls of white toilet paper, a carrot, Scotch tape, and three or four sheets of red and green construction paper (but no scissors). Using one member of the group to serve as the “base,” have the other group members build a snowman by first wrapping the “base person” in tissue and then using the other supplies to decorate.

INDOOR SNOWBALL FIGHT
You’ll need two reams of copy paper and a dividing line (masking tape on the floor, chairs, whatever works for you) down the center of the room. Separate your group into two teams, and give each group a ream of paper to crumple into a pile of “snowballs.” Once the ammo is ready, on your signal, both teams should throw as many snowballs across the line as possible. (The snowballs may not be kicked.) Every few minutes, blow a whistle (or stop the music) and count the number of snowballs on each side of the line. The team with the fewest paper wads on their side wins a point. Play several rounds or until your group gets tired.

RATING:
Not Rated

LENGTH:
22 min.

SYNOPSIS:
(Be sure you get the Rankin/Bass version on DVD.) After building a snowman in the schoolyard, the children discover there truly is “some magic in that old silk hat they found.” The hat brings the snowman to life! Now the hat’s former owner wants it back, and Professor Hinkle will do anything to get it—even if it means locking poor Frosty and Karen in a greenhouse. It’s only after a visit from Santa Claus that Frosty, Karen, and even Professor Hinkle learn what “Christmas magic” really is.

SCRIPTURES:
Certain discussion questions may direct you to specific Scriptures. Take a look at these and use them according to your group’s needs.

Job 8:21—God will fill your mouth with laughter
Psalm 51:1-19—Our need for grace
Matthew 6:25—It’s not about what you wear
Matthew 19:13-15 and Mark 10:13-16—Be like a child
John 9:1-30—Jesus heals the man born blind
Romans 12:4-10—One body
1 Corinthians 12:25-26—All parts are important
2 Corinthians 4:7—We are jars of clay
James 4:13-17—Life is short—do something good with yours
1 Peter 1:3-6—Trials are temporary
1 Peter 2:17—Respect everyone
Ephesians 2:8-9—By God’s grace, not by our own deeds
Ephesians 4:22-24—Become something new
**FROSTY THE SNOWMAN—YS BIBLE STUDY**

**MY OWN SNOWMAN**
(Note: Do this activity before the discussion.) Pass out large sheets of paper and make piles of crayons and markers available. Tell students to draw a snowman that is uniquely their own. (Or if you have an artist in your group, ask him or her to draw a snowman—like a blank Frosty—on an 11x14 sheet of paper. Make copies so everyone starts with the same template.) Students can name their snowmen whatever they want, but every detail on their snowmen should have some personal meaning for them. As the students are working, ask them questions like, *What kind of hat is the snowman wearing? What are the eyes made of? What's in your snowman's hand? Why?* Hang their creations around the room.

**HOCUS POCUS CHARADES**
Several times during the episode, you’ll notice that Hocus Pocus (the rabbit) explains things using charades. Apparently, in the world of stop-motion animation, certain woodland creatures like deer (Rudolph) can speak English, while rabbits can only gesture. Divide your group into teams and let them try to put some Hocus Pocus into these phrases:
- The President of the United States
- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
- Away in a Manger
- A Jolly, Happy Soul
- Don’t Go in the Greenhouse, Frosty!
- All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth
- Oatmeal
- Santa Claus Is Coming to Town
- Quick, Get Some Wood and Build a Fire before this Little Girl Freezes to Death!

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**
To whom does the top hat really belong? Defend your answer.

Does Frosty have a soul?

First, let’s ask—what’s a soul? The Old Testament has a number of ways to describe it:
- Ruach—The Spirit
- Leb—The Heart
- Nephesh—The Soul

Separately, they all refer to a physical part of the body; but when they’re read together, they refer to a human’s relationship to God. In the New Testament, the words *soul* and *spirit* are often used interchangeably; sometimes they’re used separately. In the book of Matthew, “the soul” is the expressiveness of human personhood in emotion and thought.

Now back to our discussion questions...

Does every living thing have a soul?

When does the soul leave the body? When do you think it enters the body?

How do you care for your soul?

What makes you believe that Frosty does or doesn’t have a real soul?

When Frosty first comes to life, he begins to ponder life itself. The show actually touches on some of the great questions of human existence. Answer these questions for Frosty and for yourself:
- Why am I here?
- What is my purpose?
- What happens after I die?

If Frosty recognized the danger of the rising thermometer, do you think he also recognized his own limited existence?

If he understood the idea of the seasons, then he...
probably knew his time on earth was short. Read James 4:13-17. What was Frosty going to do with the time he had left?

Could we say that Frosty is Karen’s “child”? What other ways could we see a mother-son relationship?

Several times Frosty willingly put himself in danger to help Karen. When Jesus talks about people being willing to lay down their lives for their friends, the Greek word uses for life is the same as the Greek word for soul. How does a person “give up his soul” for a friend?

Frosty is willing to give up his own life to keep Karen safe and warm. Who does that remind you of?

How does Frosty return to life at the end of the show? (Point out how the wind blows into the greenhouse and “resurrects Frosty.”)

Several times in the Bible, the presence of God is referred to as a “wind.” Do you think God created Frosty?

Each time Frosty comes to life, he says, “Happy birthday!” Who is he talking to?

Do you think Frosty is stupid or naive or something else?

Read Matthew 19:13-15 and Mark 10:13-16. Is it possible that Frosty “gets it” better than we do?

Why do you think we never see Karen’s parents? Technically, she never came home from school that day; shouldn’t they be worried sick? How do you think Karen explained how she got on the roof?

Why is it so easy for children to believe in magic? At what point did you learn “the big secret” that parents keep from their kids at Christmas time?

Did your parents ever threaten you by saying, “Santa won’t come if you’re not good”?

What gift does Professor Hinkle get from Santa? (Grace) Would you have let Professor Hinkle off the hook?

Let’s say Santa is a metaphor for God. (He knows all. He sees all. He makes decisions about who gets what).

• Why does Santa give the hat back to Frosty?

• What is our greatest Christmas gift from Santa?

• Is Santa fair in his gift-giving practices?

• What is a “lump of coal” in this analogy?

• What is Karen in this analogy? What is Professor Hinkle?

• What is the greatest truth in this story?

Frosty recognizes that to stay in place is to die. How does God tell us this same truth?

Read the Scripture passage from John 9. The people of the town are so caught up in figuring out how this happened or who did this that they missed the miracle. Professor Hinkle is so obsessed with his hat that he fails to see there’s a talking snowman in front of him. How do we get caught up in the details and miss the miracles? Give an example.

CLOSING PRAYER

God of all things, help us to remember that there are things in this life we don’t understand. Help us to not freeze in one place. Help us to be willing to move forward. Help us to be willing to keep our friends safe and warm even if it might hurt us. Help us to show
the same grace to each other that Santa showed Professor Hinkle—and not just at the holidays, but all year round. Amen.

OTHER IDEAS

MUSIC SUGGESTION
The song “Lions,” found on various Lost and Found CDs (www.speedwood.com), has great lyrics regarding the soul: “Oh, them lions they can eat my body but they can’t swallow my soul.” Play this song for your group. Tell them that according to the piano player for Lost and Found, George Baum, some of the rescue workers were singing this song during the recovery efforts at the World Trade Center after September 11.

SNOW SNACKS
Serve Hostess Sno Balls—those coconut-covered sugar pucks. You can also serve birthday cake or oatmeal cookies.

SPRING IS HERE
Before the kids come in, create a large puddle of water on the floor and toss in a pair of mittens, a pipe, and a broom. You could also put up some of those yellow signs that say “Caution: Wet Floor,” if you have them.