

Tribute to Winter

Patsy Rowe



Arrangements: Have room decorated with snowflakes
Set up a 'snowman' display

Introduction:

Unlike many children today who are focused on electronics, children of years gone by would play outside. Despite the harshness of winter, it was still a time of much fun. It was common to have the following experiences: building snow forts, having snow ball fights, sliding down the big hill after school, making snowmen, skating on the frozen pond, making snow angels and copying the ice pans.

In tribute to the activities of winter, let's recapture our youth.



Game: Snowball Relay

Items needed for each team: hat, scarf, mittens, teaspoon, cotton balls (1 each), and a dish

Objective: To collect a pile of 'snowballs' in the dish.

Directions:

Divide group into two teams. Supply hat, scarf and mittens for each team. Give each team member a cotton ball. On 'go', the first person in each line is to put on the hat, scarf and mittens; using a teaspoon, they are to transfer the 'snowball' (cotton ball) to the dish at the other end of the room. If the cotton ball falls off in mid-stream, the runner must return to the head of the line and begin again. The first team to transfer all their cotton balls is the winner.

Game: "Ice Pan Jumping" (Played like Musical Chairs)

Background: According to the Dictionary of Newfoundland English, 'copying' the ice pans (pieces of ice) was a favorite pastime for children in the spring of the year when the ice was breaking up. Copying or following the leader, the children would leap from one pan of ice to another.

Items needed: Various shapes of white pieces of paper (representing pieces of ice), music

Objective: To be the last person standing on a piece of ice

Song: “*Angels in the Snow*”
(Available on YouTube)

Buddy Wasisname

Option: This can be read as a poem.

Game: **Making a Snowman (Played like making a mummy)**

Items needed for each team:

Toilet paper, hat, scarf, mittens, sticky black dots (for buttons, mouth, eyes),
orange carrot-shaped paper (for nose)

Objective: Be the first team to build a snowman by wrapping the designated person in toilet paper, and then adding the other items to complete the snowman.



Selected Scripture Verses: (Write them on paper snowflakes for individuals to read)

Psalm 71: 5 Ecclesiastes 12: 1 Ezekiel 16: 60 2 Timothy 2: 22

Devotional: Youth is Wasted on the Young—I don’t think so!

Someone once said, “Youth is wasted on the young.” While we all acknowledge that we wish youth had the wisdom of the elderly, and the elderly had the strength of youth, that is not the reality of life. As we have shared in some of the activities of our youth in this meeting, we realize that those activities were great fun in the days of our youth. They were activities that helped in our development: 1. It was a means of social development as we gathered with our friends on the pond to go skating or on the hill to go sliding; 2. It helped us to develop our hand-eye coordination as we threw those snowballs at our friends; 3. It developed the creative-side within us as we built those wondrous snow forts; 4. It challenged us to take risks as we jumped across the ice pans.

The psalmist in Psalm 71: 5 reminds us that developing a relationship with God can also begin in our youth. Perhaps there are those amongst us who first experienced that relationship in our youth, while others began that relationship later in life. Regardless of when our journey with God began, it is important for us to note that the psalmist calls our attention to the fact that children can begin this most important journey as well as adults.

In the New Testament, Jesus makes us vividly aware of this truth as He calls the children to Himself so that He can place His hands on them and bless them. This is found in Matthew 19: 13-15. In these same few verses, we also note the initial actions of the disciples, for they wanted to send the children away; instead they found themselves being corrected by Jesus.

What a joy it must have been for these young individuals to be welcomed into Jesus' presence. What excitement must have been theirs as they returned home and shared with others the experience of their youth!

Youth—wasted on the young? I don't think so! Youth is a time of development, a time of preparation for what lies ahead in life.

We may remember the days of our youth as 'the good old days'. Let us also encourage our own young people to enjoy their youth (even if it differs from ours), so that they too will look back with a sense of joy. The challenge for us, as adults, is to not neglect our responsibility to guide our youth and to invite them, yes, and to even introduce them to Jesus. We are never too old to be a part of this great privilege.

Song Suggestions:

<i>Jesus bids us shine</i>	(Salvation Army Songbook 841)
<i>Jesus loves me this I know</i>	(Salvation Army Songbook 843)
<i>Jesus wants me for a sunbeam</i>	(Salvation Army Songbook 844)
<i>Saviour, like a Shepherd Lead us</i>	(Salvation Army Songbook 845)

Poem:

Winter Memories

Patsy Rowe

Softly dancing to the ground,
The snowflakes fall,
reminding us all—
Winter is here again.

Sliding and skating,
Snowballs and snow forts,
Snow angels and snowmen.
Snow all around—
Winter is here again.

Hats, scarves and mittens,
Sweaters, coats and boots.
Wrapped from head to toe
Out in the snow we go—
Winter is here again.

Noisily treading through the snow
The joy never ends
With laughter and friends—
Winter is here again.

