READY TO USE MOVIE

# The Office (12)

‘Christmas party’ (season two, episode ten)

Watch the whole episode together or concentrate on these clips: 02:22 to 05:50 (to set the scene), 07:00 to 12:20 and 17:46 to 18:45.

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## Synopsis

Christmas TV episodes of popular shows are a staple of modern comedy, whether it’s *Friends*, *The Big Bang Theory*, *Parks and Recreation* or *The Office*. Debuting more than 18 years ago (before the young people in your groups were born!), the US version of *The Office* does Christmas episodes better than most, with the majority of the series containing a standalone Christmas episode. Season two’s Christmas special is full of *The Office*’s trademark cringeworthy comedy.

It’s Christmas at Dunder Mifflin, an average American paper company that is managed by the ‘unique’ Michael Scott. In a bid to bring about office unity, a secret Santa game is taking place, with each team member having $20 to buy a present for a co-worker. Michael creates havoc, however, when it is revealed he’s bought a video iPod for his secret Santa.

## The episode

This session is aimed at those aged twelve and over. With that in mind, chat through the following questions to help settle them into the discussion format:

* What is the best Christmas TV show episode of all time?
* Have they seen *The Office* before? Do they have a favourite character?
* Have they taken part in a secret Santa before? What’s the best / worst gift they have received?

The first clip sees Jim explain his secret Santa gift for Pam (whom the audience knows that he is in love with), as he talks through the various items and the sentimental value they hold for their friendship. The second clip sees Michael becoming annoyed when his gift is revealed to be a handmade oven glove. Michael is angry as he had broken the $20 rule in order to buy a colleague a video iPod, expecting a similar level of ‘appreciation’ to be shown towards him. In order to get his own way, Michael instigates a game of ‘Yankee swap’ where the office workers can take an item of their choosing from each other. The result of this is that Pam swaps her teapot for the iPod. The third and final clip sees Pam reveal to Jim that she had a change of heart and swapped the iPod for the teapot. At this point Jim reveals the secret sentimental gifts inside.

* Why do you think that Michael has broken the rules of secret Santa in the first place?
* How is Jim feeling during ‘Yankee swap’? Is Pam being ungrateful?’
* Is Michael a selfish person?
* Why is Jim’s present so good, despite it not being as expensive as an iPod?

## The Bible

Building on the clips from today, read out loud or together Luke 1:26-56 and focus on the character of Mary, and how she can inspire us to deal with potential disappointments this Christmas. Afterwards, chat through the following questions:

* How does Mary decide to not let others disappoint her in her response to the angel Gabriel?
* How does Mary adjust her expectations for her own life?
* How does Mary physically move out of her comfort zone in this passage?
* It’s easy to feel let down by others at Christmastime. How does Mary’s story provide us with encouragement on how we can deal with things when life doesn’t go as we’d expect?

*The Office* is available to stream on Netflix

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