

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Shake It Up / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is the center of the Christmas story.

SCRIPTURE

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him (Matthew 2:1-3 NIV).

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi (Matthew 2:16 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To point students toward focusing on Jesus this holiday season

THINK ABOUT THIS

The goal this week is to encourage your students to find balance. It's certainly not to give them a guilt trip about enjoying any of the traditional, exciting parts about Christmas. There's nothing wrong with Christmas movies, time off school, presents, treats, and more. We simply want students to know that there's so much more for us in Jesus. At times, the Christmas season can make that harder to see simply because there are so many things competing for our attention. Be careful not to shame students who fully embrace the fun of Christmas or speak about any parts of the season as if they're "bad" or "wrong". Rather, encourage them to look for ways to invite Jesus into their season. Help them find ways to experience Jesus in every part of this Christmas and the ones to come!

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

DURING GROUP

ICE BREAKER

In your opinion, who is the most joyful Christmas character from a movie or TV show?

DISCUSS THIS

1. When you think about Christmas, what's the first thing you think of?
2. What's one thing that might distract you from focusing on Jesus at Christmas?
3. Why is it so easy to be distracted from focusing on Jesus during the holiday season?
4. What might happen if you focused more on Jesus during the Christmas season?
5. Together, let's brainstorm a bunch of ways we can focus on Jesus during the Christmas season, both as a group and individually. (*Note: SGL, find a way to write these down if you can, maybe on a piece of paper, sticky note, poster board, or a shared note on your phone.*)

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE) 1

Complete a day of the YouVersion devotional plan for this series together as a group. Then, invite students to continue reading together on the YouVersion app for the remainder of the week.

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE) 2

Prompt your students to set a reminder on their phone for each day this holiday season that says, "Focus on Jesus." For students who don't have phones, they can simply write the message on a sticky note, on their mirror, or in some place they'll see it often.