



# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## MESSY CHRISTMAS / WEEK TWO

### BEFORE GROUP

#### BOTTOM LINE

You weren't meant to be the one who keeps it all together.

#### SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 2:1-3, 8 NIV*

*Philippians 2:5b-7 NRSV*

#### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To point students toward shifting their focus to Jesus this Christmas.

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

This week's conversation is all about balance. If your students love the fun, festive parts of Christmas, that's great! You don't want to inadvertently lead them to believe they're bad or wrong for getting into the holiday spirit. Instead, you want to encourage them to find ways to bring their focus back to Jesus—the source of joy in this and every season. The goal isn't to abandon all things Christmas and only think about Jesus. Rather, it's to encourage students to find balance, shifting their focus to Jesus in big and small ways and reflecting on His presence throughout the season.

*Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.*

### DURING GROUP

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What part of the Christmas season brings you the most joy?
2. How much attention do you typically give Jesus during the holiday season? Do you incorporate Jesus into family traditions or other celebrations? On a scale of 1 to 10, how often do you think about Jesus during the holiday season?
3. What gets in the way of you focusing on Jesus during Christmas?
4. What might change about the way you experienced the holiday season if you focused more on Jesus?
5. Think about the things that make up your Christmas season. What would it look like to include Jesus in some of those things this year?
  - a. If you feel like you are already including Jesus in your holiday celebrations, what are some ways that you do that?
6. What's one way you plan to focus on Jesus this holiday season?

#### TRY THIS

Leaders, consider sharing with your group how you personally will choose to focus on Jesus in this holiday season. You can share a personal story from your family or time in high school, or an intention that you have to focus on Jesus this Christmas.