

SMALL  GROUP

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

The Kid / Week 2

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## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE

The Kid shows us that Christmas is for everyone.

### SCRIPTURE

*Luke 2:8 NLT*

*Luke 2:9-14 NLT*

*Luke 2:15-16 NLT*

*Matthew 2:1-2 NLT*

*Matthew 2:9-11a NLT*

*Matthew 2:16 NLT*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To point students toward the truth that Jesus came to Earth for everyone and to encourage them to find ways to remember that for both themselves and others this holiday season.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

There are all kinds of reasons that a middle schooler might feel like Christmas, Jesus, or even faith overall isn't for them. During this series, you may have students in your circle who have never been to church and have no interest in faith outside of the holiday season. Or you may have students who come from families where faith traditions are mixed, so Christmas may not be the only thing they're celebrating. You may have some students who are struggling with difficult circumstances that have changed the way they see Jesus. Or you may have students whose faith is changing and developing as we speak. Whatever the reason, be sensitive to the viewpoints expressed by your middle schoolers when it comes to the parts of faith and Christmas that they just aren't sure about. Your job isn't to change their minds; it's to give them a safe space to honestly explore their faith this season and encourage them with the truth that Jesus really is for *all* of them, even if they don't know or believe it yet!

*This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the content as needed, and don't feel like you need to complete everything listed.*

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## DURING GROUP

### JUST FOR FUN

Play a few rounds of Christmas Movie Charades! Write the names of popular holiday films on several slips of paper and have students take turns acting each one out while the rest of your Small Group guesses what the movie is.

### DISCUSS THIS

1. What's the all-time best Christmas gift you've ever received?
2. Who gave you that gift? How did they know it was the one for you?
3. What parts of the holiday season feel like they're specifically for you? (*For example, the traditions you love at church, the songs you love to sing, etc.*)
4. What might make someone feel like Christmas isn't really for them?

5. Of all the people the angel could've told about Jesus' birth, why do you think he chose the shepherds?
6. What does it mean to you to know that Jesus is for everyone (including you!)?
7. What might change for you this season if you lived like that were true?
8. This week, what's one step you can take to remember that:
  - a. Jesus is for you?
  - b. Jesus is for others?
  - c. Jesus wants you to be for others, too?

### DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1)

Ask your students to think of someone who could use a little extra kindness and encouragement this holiday season and write them a Christmas card. Maybe that person is a neighbor who doesn't have family in the area, a teacher at their school, a peer who has been going through a lot, or someone they've met at church. Have the student write them a Christmas card filled with encouragement, letting the recipient know that your Small Group is praying for them. Then, once each student has written their card, have them share about who they wrote to so that your group can pray for each of the people represented in the cards they've written.

For extra fun, take a picture of your Small Group and ask your Ministry Leader to print it out before your group time is over. Glue the photo on the front of the card like a traditional family Christmas card. If you don't have a photo, ask your students create a fun Christmas picture on the front of the card with markers and holiday stickers.

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