

SMALL **lead small.** GROUP

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

The Kid / Week 4

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

The Kid changes everything, especially you.

SCRIPTURE

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 NLT).

“I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of” (John 10:10 MSG).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To show students that Jesus’ birth, life, and ministry changed the world and to encourage them to see the way following Jesus beyond the holiday season can change their lives, too.

THINK ABOUT THIS

This is a great week to introduce an invitation to take a new step of faith to your students. Of course, this will look different depending on where each student is on their faith journey. For some, this may be an invitation to take a step toward a deeper relationship or commitment to Jesus. For others, it may be a step to simply incorporate their faith into other parts of their everyday life. And for some, this may be the first step they ever take toward following Jesus. Whether they commit simply to showing up again at Small Group to keep the conversation going or choose for the first time to follow Jesus with their lives, any step of faith is a big deal for your middle schoolers. So, as you close this series, encourage your students to take a step of faith, seemingly big or small, and let Jesus change their lives. And of course, don’t forget to celebrate when they do! Whatever step they take, it’s a brave and big deal for a middle schooler to acknowledge, so don’t forget to make sure they know how excited and proud of them you are.

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

DURING GROUP

JUST FOR FUN

Rank the following Christmas decorations from most essential to least essential for a good holiday set up: Christmas tree, Christmas lights, candy canes, Santa hats, tinsel, bells.

DISCUSS THIS

1. Do you think it’s easier to experience Jesus during Christmas versus other times of the year? Why or why not?
2. In what ways can you learn about or experience Jesus uniquely during the holidays?
3. Why do you think that might change or even go away once Christmas is over?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1)

Hand each student a stack of sticky notes that they can use like a little booklet. Ask them to write on the top of their booklet “What does Christmas mean for me all year?” As you go through questions 4-8, have students write their responses on the pages of their sticky note booklet. Ask them to draw icons or doodles that go along with their answers or to highlight or underline key phrases that they can remember all year long. Encourage students to put the little sticky notebook in their Bible or somewhere in their room. It will be handy to get out throughout the year.

4. How might seeing Jesus’ birth as the beginning of a bigger story change the way you experience Him beyond Christmas?
 5. What’s one thing Jesus’ life changed about the world?
 6. What’s one way Jesus has changed *you*?
 7. What’s one thing you’ve learned about, experienced, or have questions about when it comes to Jesus this Christmas?
 8. What’s one step you can take to keep learning and discovering more about that beyond this season?
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