



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Who Needs Christmas? / Week 1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

LEADER PREP

CONVERSATION GUIDE

BOTTOM LINE

The entire world needs Christmas.

SCRIPTURE

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2 NIV).

"But when the set time had fully come . . ."
(Galatians 4:4 NIV).

"Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you . . . You have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:28b, 30b-33 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that even when God seems silent, He is still working and can be trusted.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders—in a student's life, even a short period of God's silence can feel like 400 years. Give them perspective without diminishing any discouraging situations they're facing.

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are you looking forward to the most heading into this Christmas season?
2. What's the thing you find most remarkable about the Christmas story?
3. Why do you think a period of God's silence is recorded in the Bible?
4. Are there any situations in your life right now where God feels silent or distant?
5. What would you tell someone who feels like God is silent in their life right now?
6. What's one way you can remind yourself that God is working, even when He feels silent in your world?

TRY THIS

Leaders—text your students this week and ask them if there's an area where God feels silent. Let them know the ways you'll be praying for them in that situation.



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Who Needs Christmas? / Week 2

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

LEADER PREP

BOTTOM LINE

God needed Christmas to demonstrate His love.

SCRIPTURE

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship" (Galatians 4:4-5 NIV).

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that Christmas proves to us how far God will go to demonstrate His love for us.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders—at this phase high schoolers are developing a faith of their own. And while they understand what we celebrate during the holidays, they don't always understand why. They know the Christmas story, but they may need your help making the connection between baby Jesus, risen Jesus and what that means for them personally.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who do you spend the most time with during Christmas break?
2. We said that God didn't just want people to behave—He wanted people to know Him. Why do we tend to think that God cares more about our behavior than anything else?
3. What makes it difficult for many people to believe that God loves them?
4. Why do you think Jesus demonstrated His love instead of just telling us about it?
5. When are you most likely to feel like God doesn't love you? How can it be helpful in those moments to remember that Jesus demonstrated His love?
6. What's one way you can demonstrate your gratitude for God's love this week? (*Talking to Him, serving others, being generous*)

TRY THIS

Leaders—just after group, text your students something like "It was great seeing you all this week. I realize a lot of us grew up celebrating Christmas but maybe this is your first time understanding what it means for you personally. If you want to talk about that more or are interested in beginning a relationship with Jesus, I'd love to talk about that with you. Just let me know!"



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Who Needs Christmas? / Week 3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

LEADER PREP

CONVERSATION GUIDE

BOTTOM LINE

Christmas is for people who need freedom.

SCRIPTURE

“Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
(Matthew 1:20-21 NIV).

For sin shall no longer be your master . . .
(Romans 6:14a NIV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that because He sent Jesus to the world, He can not only forgive us of our sins, He can set us free *from* our sins.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders—to high school students, relationships are the most important thing. So during this Christmas break, if there’s anything you can do to invest in relationships outside of group, go for it. Even commenting on social media posts and sending texts go a long way.

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What’s your favorite Christmas memory and why is it important to you?
2. Tonight we talked about how Christmas is the beginning of God’s plan to save us from our sin. When it comes to sin, why is it easier to see God as our source of guilt instead of our source of help?
3. What does it look like when someone sees sin as their master?
4. Today we talked about how the wages of sin is death. What’s one way you’ve seen sin kill? (*Leaders—we’re not talking about actual murder. We’re talking about friendships dying, families falling apart, etc.*)
5. Every single person on the planet sins. What’s one area where you could use God’s help getting free?
6. As a small group, how can we help each other find freedom from the sin we’re facing?

TRY THIS

Leaders—text your students sometime this week and remind them that sin is not their master. And that means, they don’t have to do what it says.