

# STUMIN

SMALL GROUP  
LEADER GUIDE

MIDDLE  
SCHOOL  
FOCUS

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DECEMBER 2, 2020

Week 1 of a 3-week series  
about Christmas

### BOTTOM LINE

You're invited to go see for  
yourself.

### SCRIPTURE

*And there were shepherds living out in the field nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.*

*-Luke 2:8-10*

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

*- Luke 2:15*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to have a personal relationship with Jesus by accepting the invitation to experience Him for themselves.



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect

### >> BEFORE GROUP

**THINK ABOUT THIS:** This week's conversation extends an invitation for students to take a step to get to know Jesus. For some, this may be the first time they decide to follow Jesus or start a relationship with Him. Be sure to celebrate those who make any step toward Jesus this week, big or small. Any step like this is a really big deal for their lives! And remember, follow up is key here. Whether individual group members are making big decisions, asking new questions, or just considering showing up again next week to StuMin, your personal outreach to them has the potential to make a big difference in how they feel and what next steps they take when it comes to their faith.

### >> DURING GROUP

*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.*

#### DISCUSS THIS:

- Describe the coolest thing you've ever seen or experienced. Use as much detail as you can. Do you think your description was as good as the thing/experience itself? Why or why not?
- What's one cool thing you've heard about Jesus?
- On a scale of 1-10, how much time and effort do you usually spend trying to learn about Jesus?
- When it comes to Jesus, why do you think it's important to decide what you believe for yourself?
- What's the difference between learning about Jesus and spending time with Jesus?
- What's one way you can get to know Jesus better?

#### DO THIS:

- Scatter the activity cards in the middle of the group. Ask group members to select a card that represents how they'll get to know Jesus in their own way. If none of the cards are a fit for them, they should choose a blank one and fill it in with their own idea.

### >> AFTER GROUP

Follow up with group members during Christmas break. Encourage them to follow through with whatever action step is on the card they chose. Share with them some specific examples of how you are getting to know Jesus better.

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**>> BEFORE GROUP**

**THINK ABOUT THIS:** Chances are your group has some devoted believers, some sincere seekers, and some students who only show up because their friends are there. No matter where they are on the journey, our goal as leaders is for every high schooler to develop an authentic personal faith. That means inviting them, over and over, to think critically about what they hear, to wrestle with doubts and to examine personally what they believe. Chances are not all of that will happen with every student this week. Remember, discipleship is a life-long process. If a student in your group begins to rethink what God or Jesus means to them, that's great!

**>> DURING GROUP**

*Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed and ask thoughtful follow-up questions as the conversation unfolds. Don't feel like you need to answer every question.*

**DISCUSS THIS:**

- From Dana's message: Have you ever had an experience that was so epic, so incredible, so amazing that you had difficulty trying to explain it to other people? Pick an epic experience you have had and try explaining it to our group.
- Dana gave two examples of reasons why some people may not "get" all of the hype surrounding the Christmas season: the storyteller isn't credible or God's goodness doesn't feel real to you. Have you ever (or are you currently) felt (feeling) either of these reactions to Christmas? Explain.
- From Dana's message: If you were the God of the universe and you wanted to show up on earth for the first time, how would you do it? Why do you think God chose to show up the way He did?
- The angels appeared to the shepherds with "good news of great joy." Share about a time you received good news that brought you great joy.
- When the shepherds heard about the news of Jesus' birth, they went to see it for themselves. What would you have done? Do you think most people experience God for themselves or take others' word for it? Why?
- What are some reasons people might be hesitant to experience God for themselves?
- What is one reason you were hesitant to experience God in the past?
- What does it look like to "go see for yourself" even if you aren't sure what you believe about God?
- From Dana's message: God's love is for all people, at all times, and in all places. Who is somebody that you can invite to experience God for themselves along with you? What are some practical steps you can take to accomplish this?
- From Dana's message: What is it that you're wondering about? What is it that makes this all hard to believe? What do you want to know more about?
- How can StuMin best support you in finding answers to your questions?