



Best Christmas Ever / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

God is with us.

SCRIPTURE

...pledged to be married (Matthew 1:18b NIV).

"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." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us") (Matthew 1:21-23 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To show students that God came to Earth to be with us, and that they can find ways to be with Him during the Christmas season.

THINK ABOUT THIS

This series is focused on investing and inviting. Because of that, you'll probably have a lot of new faces in your group for this conversation. Keep in mind that you're talking with students from all kinds of backgrounds and perspectives when it comes to faith, God, and even Christmas. Some may have a very limited understanding of Jesus, God, and how they're related. Be ready to clarify or answer questions, and be careful to choose language that includes students from many perspectives when it comes to faith. In addition, the idea that God is actually *with* us may bring up a lot of questions. Things are so much about feelings in this phase. Whatever middle schoolers feel is true, they believe to be fact. So when they don't feel like God is with them, they struggle to see how it could possibly be true that He is!

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.

DURING GROUP

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE) 1

Have a Christmas cookie decorating party during your group conversation! Keep the conversation light and as you keep things moving. Start by saying something like, "Okay, we're going to decorate cookies while we're talking today. So, let's have fun and have a great conversation at the same time! Deal?"

DISCUSS THIS

1. In a sentence or two, describe your best Christmas ever.
2. If you were God and had control over everything, what's the first thing you'd make happen?
3. Have you ever thought the way God feels about you changes based on what you do or don't do? Tell us about it.
4. Why do you think God wants to be *with* us?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE) 2

End your time in prayer and encourage your few to complete the YouVersion Daily Devos for this week of "Best Christmas Ever" together.

**Note: This conversation builds into next week's discussion, so encourage your few (and especially any new students!) to come back and keep talking next week.*
