



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Christmas Lights / Week 3

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Go see for yourself.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to take a step towards discovering Jesus for themselves – no matter what they believe or have heard about Him previously.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Chances are your group has some devoted believers, some immature Christians and some students who only show up because their friends are there. No matter where they are on the journey, as leaders, our goal 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!

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

DURING GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Icebreaker: Leader, choose five items from pop culture (songs, apps, video games, movies, etc.) from the last month and ask students to vote whether each one is overrated or underrated.

1. What is something (songs, games, sporting events, concerts) that you had to experience for yourself to really appreciate?
2. What is most likely to cause you to try something new (commercials, social media, friends, etc.)?
3. Do you think most people experience God for themselves or take others word for it?
4. What are some reasons people might be hesitant to experience God for themselves? (Leader, this is a time to acknowledge obstacles but not necessarily give an answer for each one).
5. What is one reason you were hesitant to experience God in the past?
6. Think about the steps you might take to experience a new song or video game (you'd go to an app, read reviews, download it).
7. What does it look like to "go see for yourself" even if you aren't sure what you believe about God?
8. New experiences are almost always better when you're with someone. Who is someone you could bring with you as you "go and see for yourself" what God is like?
9. If you were to lay aside assumptions and get to know God for yourself in the next few weeks, what is one thing you would hope to discover?

TRY THIS

Challenge your students to experience Christmas in a new way by encouraging them to be a part of the XP. It is a 5 day countdown to Christmas devotional that leads students to try different ways to see and hear the Christmas story.