

# STUMIN

## SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FOCUS

### FOR ALL PEOPLE

DECEMBER 13, 2023

Week 2 of a 3-week series  
about the Good News  
of Christmas

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is for all people.

### SCRIPTURE

**Luke 2:1-20 NIV**

*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 2:10 NIV

*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 2:15b NIV

### GOALS OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to  
see that the invitation to  
follow Jesus is for all people  
and to personally accept  
the invitation to experience  
Jesus in their lives every day



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect

### >> BEFORE GROUP

**THINK ABOUT THIS:** This week’s conversation encourages students to see that the invitation to follow Jesus is for all people. Depending on their background, sense of self-worth, and belief system up to this point, this truth may be hard for some of your students to believe. In a culture that sometimes sends the message that faith is for those who do all the right things, or behave a certain way, or have it all figured out, the idea that Jesus came to save all people—no matter who they are or what they’ve done—can feel contradictory or confusing. This is a great week to lean into the truth of God’s love for us all and the salvation Jesus wants to offer to every single student in your group. Be sure to celebrate those who make any step toward Jesus this week, big or small. And follow up with those who may need more time to talk or process. As students may be making big faith decisions, asking new questions, or just considering whether to show up again next week, your personal outreach to them has the potential to make a big difference in what next steps they take with 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:

- Has your opinion ever changed about something once you experienced it? If so, tell us about it.
- Share about a “you just had to be there” moment that you experienced.
- Share about a Christmas-related experience you’ve had that was filled with joy, hope, peace, and/or love.
- On a scale of 1 (never) to 10 (always) how often does your Christmas season feel full of joy, hope, peace, and/or love?
- What’s something you’ve heard about that you want to experience yourself?
- How might experiencing Jesus make an impact on someone?
- Why might someone think following Jesus isn’t for them?
- What about the Christmas story shows us that Jesus came for all people?
- Why is it important that Jesus is for all people, including you?
- How might believing that impact your life?
- What’s one way you can “go and see” Jesus this week?

# STUMIN

## SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

HIGH  
SCHOOL  
FOCUS

### FOR ALL PEOPLE

DECEMBER 13, 2023

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about the Good News  
of Christmas

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### >> BEFORE GROUP

**THINK ABOUT THIS:** In a culture that sometimes sends the message that faith is for those who do all the right things, behave a certain way, or have it all figured out, the idea that Jesus came to save all people—no matter who they are, what they've done, or what they've believed up to this point—can feel contradictory or confusing. This is a great week to lean into the truth of God's love for us all and the full life Jesus wants all of us to experience. It's also a great week to celebrate any big decisions or life changes your students make (or have made recently) in regard to their faith. A decision to experience Jesus in a personal way is a big deal, so don't miss the chance to make sure your students know that!

### >> 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:

- What's something you've heard about that you want to experience for yourself?
- What's the difference between explaining and experiencing?
- How have you experienced other Christians in positive ways? And what about negative or unhelpful ways?
- How have those experiences shaped the way you view Jesus?
- How might experiencing Jesus for yourself change that?
- What has your own personal experience of Jesus been like?
- What about Jesus' birth shows us that the invitation to experience Jesus is for all of us?
- What's one way you can experience Jesus yourself this holiday season?
- What is one way you can help others experience Jesus this holiday season?

### >> AFTER GROUP

Going into the Christmas break, find ways to stay connected with your group. A great option? Send a group text periodically throughout the break asking things like: send a picture of your favorite Christmas gift, which Christmas song title best describes your break so far, how can I be praying for you, where did you see God today, etc. Be sure to get the ball rolling by participating in the sharing.