



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

WEEK: 9

GOAL OF TONIGHT

Help students see how God's story intersects with their story and why that matters in their day-to-day life.

WELCOME & ICE BREAKER

Hi Friends! Welcome to small group, it's our last one of 2017! Next week is our Christmas party, The Festival of Festiveness. To kick off tonight- let's all share one Christmas tradition our family practices each year. It could be making cookies, cutting down a Christmas tree, going to Christmas Eve service, going to Grandma's house... anything special that you do every year to celebrate Christmas.

BIBLE VERSES

Matthew 2:1-12

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS THE BIBLE VERSES

Jesus was born in a little town called Bethlehem, but God announced his birth to people far away from Bethlehem too. Television and the Internet didn't exist yet, so God got creative. Check out this story to how God got the word out about Jesus.

Open to Matthew 2:1-12 and read it together (it's a little long- but well worth the read!)

Ask these questions:

1. What did God use to announce Jesus' birth to the wise men?
2. Why do you think he used a NEW star to let them know about Jesus? (Hint: those men were astrologers -they studied the stars, so they would definitely notice if a big, bright, new one appeared)
3. What did the wise men do to celebrate once they reached Mary and Jesus?
4. What do you think might have changed about their lives after they met Jesus?

Application questions:

1. What are some things God does to get the word out about Jesus TODAY? (hint: churches, music, the Bible, etc.)
2. Why is it important for EVERYONE to hear about the birth of Jesus and how much he loves each one of us?
3. Do you know anyone who doesn't know much about Jesus?
4. What could WE do to help others know about Jesus, especially during this Christmas season?

LEADER INSIGHT

Next week at the Christmas party we are going to talk more about that star. It isn't too often that God gives us such a CLEAR sign of what to do, or in this case, who to follow. Make sure your students spend some time talking about how profound that star was (no new stars ever appear!!!) - so they are even more prepared for next week's message.

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS

Remind students that the Christmas party is the BEST opportunity we all have to invite those who don't know about Jesus to hear about him. There will be SO MUCH FUN and a CLEAR message about Jesus. Encourage them to bring friends.