

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

HS
HM
WEEK A

LEADER PREP

MAIN POINT

God is with us.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:21-23 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To inspire students to celebrate that God made a huge, first move towards humanity and them when He came to Earth as a baby.

THINK ABOUT THIS

At this phase, high schoolers are beginning to ask internally who they can trust and think critically about the stories they have been told. That's why, as leaders, it's important for us to talk about the character of God as much as we talk about His desires for how we live. This week, let your discussion linger around why God would choose to come to Earth as He did. Encourage questions. You don't have to supply the answer. By simply letting students think about the answer you're offering them an opportunity to rediscover that God is good and can be trusted in a way that helps them own their faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE CHECK IN

- How was everyone's week? Share Highs & Lows.
- Someone recap the main point of the message.
- What might cause you to lower your expectations of someone or something?

THE WORD

- Do you think most people have higher expectations or lower expectations when it comes to God?
Remember, this is a safe place to voice any questions, or disappointment you have with God.
- READ Matthew 1:21-23.
- What did God coming down to earth show us about His character/who He is?
- What does "God with us" mean for you as a high schooler?
- Do you think a "close" relationship with God is a realistic expectation? Why or why not?

APPLICATION

- Let's brainstorm together: God made the first move toward being close with us by coming to Earth (that's why we celebrate Christmas!). What are ways we can move closer to Him this Christmas season?
- (For larger groups, break into groups of 2-3). Everyone pick one way you want to move closer to Jesus this Christmas season and share it.

COMMUNITY BUILD

- How can we connect outside of small group time and have fun together?

PRAY

We are going to close in prayer.
Anyone have any prayer requests?

MATTHEW 1:21-23 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").

LEADERS, TRY THIS: Reflect a personal God to your students by being a personal leader.

Sometimes the best way for a student to understand God is with them is for them to experience someone who knows God being with them. So, set an alarm every day this week to make a quick connection with your students. It can be as simple as a direct message, a group text, a social media post or something else. The goal is to be present in their lives as much as possible. Additionally, reach out to all new students (or enlist regular students to help you) to invite them to come back next week. A personal invite may make a big difference.

NOTES