



12.12.21

## LEADER PREP

### MAIN POINT

**God is with us.**

### SCRIPTURE

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

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!

**Personal Reflection:**  
How do you know God is with you when you can't feel or see Him?

Share that with your students! Discipleship happens in relationships, and sharing how you live out your faith with your students helps make faith real for them.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### THE CHECK IN

- How was everyone's week? Share Highs & Lows.
- Someone recap the main point of the message.
- In a sentence or two, describe your best Christmas ever.

### THE WORD

- READ Matthew 1:21-23.
- What does "God with us" mean for you as a middle schooler?
- Have you ever thought the way God feels about you changes based on what you do or don't do? Tell us about it.
- Why do you think God wants to be with us?
- How do you know God is with you, if you can't always feel Him or see Him? (*Leaders, be ready to share some personal answers*).

### 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.

### UPCOMING MSM SG SCHEDULE:

12.19.21 - Best Christmas Ever Week 3

12.26.21 & 1.2.21 - NO MSM Services

1.9.21 - MSM SG Services Kickoff

---

## NOTES