

## **LEADER PREP**

#### **GOAL OF SMALL GROUP**

To help students see that Jesus is the only way having eternal life.

#### MAIN POINT

God wants to use us to help others move closer to Him.

#### MAIN SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 3:15-17

### THANK YOU

Small Group Leaders: You give your time and your energy to invest into middle school students through the love of Jesus and we couldn't do this ministry without you. You are shining stars pointing your students to Jesus, just like the Star of Bethlehem pointed the Wise Men to Jesus. What you do matters. Every time you smile at a student, it matters. Every time you play a game with a student, it matters. Every time you lead a discussion, it matters. Every time you show up in their world, it matters. Your students matter to God, and every way you invest in them matters to God too. Thank you.

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. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

# **DISCUSSION GUIDE**

#### **GET THEM TALKING**

- How was everyone's week? Share Highs & Lows.
- What's something you and your best friend both enjoy that you can talk about for hours and hours?
- Someone recap the main point of the message in your own words.
- Share a time where you invited a friend to church or shared your faith. How did it go?
- Who feels like it's hard or scary sometimes to share their faith? Why?
- What are things we can do to overcome those fears?

#### THE WORD

# READ 1 Peter 3:15-17 and answer the following questions:

- 1. In your own words, what is this saying?
- 2. Verse 15 talks about being ready to explain the reason for your faith. How can we do that?
- Verse 16 talks about sharing our faith in a respectful and gentle way. Have you seen someone share their faith in a good way? Share about that.
- 4. Verse 17 tells us we may suffer for sharing our faith. Do you think it's still worth doing if you know you may suffer for it? Why or why not?

#### **NEXT STEP**

Challenge everyone to think of someone in their lives that they can invite to church for Christmas. Remind them that people may be more willing to come to church at Christmas.

#### PRAYER GUIDE

We are going to close in prayer. Who has prayer requests?

# **MAIN SCRIPTURES**

Scripture is provided for convenience, but we prefer you and your students open your Bibles to read the Scripture. This helps your students learn how to find Scripture in their Bibles and where these verses are in the larger context of God's Word.

## 1 Peter 3:15-17 NIV

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. <sup>17</sup> For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."

# **LEADER NOTES**