

# WEEK 1

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE



Another Christmas is almost here, along with the annual onslaught of Christmas music, movies, lights, shopping lists, ads, and inflatable lawn ornaments. We all know the Christmas season is supposed to be about generosity, family, and celebrating the gift of Jesus . . . but to be honest — how much of your Christmas holiday is actually spent thinking about yourself and what you want? Since we're all familiar with this selfishness struggle, this 4-week series will take us back to the very first Christmas — a day that was only possible because of the selflessness, generosity, and sacrifice of God and God's people. On the first Christmas, Mary and Joseph gave **up their comfort**, the shepherds **gave their stories**, the wise men **gave their worship**, and **God gave everything**. So this Christmas, what will you give in response?

### THIS WEEK

#### THE BIG IDEA

On the first Christmas, Mary and Joseph gave up their comfort.

#### THE BIBLE

Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-20, 2:13-14;  
Luke 9:23

- What's one gift on the top of your Christmas list this year?
- So far this year, have you spent more time thinking about what you want for Christmas or what you plan to give others? Why do you think that is?
- Do you agree that it's better to give than to receive? Why or why not?
- Name a few of the ways Christmas today is different from the very first Christmas, when Jesus was born.
- What were some of the uncomfortable things God asked Mary and Joseph to do to prepare for the first Christmas?
- Why do you think God allowed the first Christmas to be so uncomfortable for Mary, Joseph, and Jesus?
- Do you think following God is always going to be uncomfortable? Why or why not?
- Read Luke 9:23. What are some of the ways we can apply this verse specifically during the Christmas holidays?
- This Christmas, what's one way you plan to give up your comfort for God, and what do you hope to achieve?
- How do you think God might be calling you to give up your comfort even after Christmas is over?

#### ACTIVITY

Work together to decide on The 5 Best Things About Christmas. Make a big list of possible favorites. Then give every student a chance to cast five votes by writing five tally marks wherever they'd like. They can vote for five different things or put all five of their tallies on one thing they really love. You might even want to plan a small group Christmas party that features your group's five favorite things.