

WEEK 2

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, the shepherds gave their stories.

THE BIBLE

Luke 2:8-20; Matthew 10:27

- What's the best gift you've ever been given? What made it so great?
- Have you ever been really excited to give someone a gift? Why were you so excited about it?
- Why do you think people say Jesus' birth was a gift?
- Of all people, why do you think God chose to tell these shepherds about Jesus' birth?
- When the shepherds told people the story of what they'd seen, how much do you think they understood about who Jesus was? What do you think they said?
- Have you ever felt unqualified to talk with someone about what you believe? What holds us back from sharing our stories with others?
- The shepherds shared their stories about being visited by angels — what kinds of stories about God could you share?
- Read Matthew 10:27. What's one thing you've discovered about God that you could share with others?
- This Christmas, what's one way you plan to share your stories of faith with someone else?
- How do you think God might be calling you to share your stories even after Christmas is over?

ACTIVITY

If your students identified people they want to share their stories with this Christmas, spend a few minutes praying for each other, for the people they've identified, and for the ability to share the good news of Jesus with courage and clarity.