

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Epiphany

BEFORE GROUP

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:9-11

John 2:1-11

Matthew 2:1-12

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.

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To get students thinking about how Jesus has “appeared” or been made real to them. Help students recognize when they have experienced forgiveness (grace) from God or have put into practice love for and helping others before their own wants and concerns. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind and love your neighbor as yourself” – Jesus (Matthew 22:37-29)

DURING GROUP

ICE BREAKER

What did you give someone for Christmas this year and why?

DISCUSS THIS

Transition: Today we are going to discuss the day of Epiphany and why we still celebrate it.

1. What's the first thing you remember or comes to mind about the lesson on Epiphany?
2. In your own words, how would you define Epiphany?
3. Read Mark 1:9-11, John 2:1-11 and Matthew 2:1-12. After each passage ask: How does this passage reveal Jesus as the Christ/Messiah/Savior of the world?
4. Which passage do you think best tells you who Jesus is and why?
5. When have you experienced forgiveness that you did deserve? When did you do something you knew Jesus would want you to do rather than what you *wanted* or were *tempted* to do? (These are “Jesus” moments, Jesus making Himself known to us! Let the students know this.)
6. Epiphany is all about celebrating Jesus appearing to us as Christ the Lord, Savior of the world. How has Jesus appeared, or been made real to you?
7. Imagine if you were one of the Magi and could bring Jesus a gift. If you could give Jesus one thing to show Him what He means to you, what would it be?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

At the end of group time, invite students draw or find a picture of what they would give Jesus if they were to meet Him today. Have them take a picture/screen shot of it and save it to their phone, computer, or tablet. Encourage your students to look at the picture every day this week and remember that God sees their heart and gives them the greatest gift imaginable, His Son, Jesus Christ.