



SESSION ONE



God Has a Face

STUDENT HANDOUT

Key Verses

The Word became a man and lived among us. We saw his glory—the glory that belongs to the only Son of the Father. The Word was full of grace and truth. . . . No man has ever seen God. But God the only Son is very close to the Father. And the Son has shown us what God is like.

John 1:14, 18



TELL YOUR STORY:

Christmas Traditions

At the beginning of *Because of Bethlehem*, Max Lucado describes some of the Christmas traditions he looks forward to each year, even the uncomfortable ones such as crowded shops and Scrooge. Take turns choosing your favorite traditions on this list and share with your partner how they help you enjoy the season. And if your favorite isn't on this list, you can add it and share that too!

- ☐ Decorations (decorating home or Christmas tree, going to see the lights, etc.)
- ☐ Outdoor activities (snow skiing, ice skating, snow shoeing, etc.)
- ☐ Food (cooking or eating special meals or desserts)
- ☐ Crafting (making decorations or gifts)
- ☐ Volunteering (serving those in need)
- ☐ Gift shopping
- ☐ Gatherings (parties, overnight guests, etc.)
- ☐ Performances (school programs, church Christmas pageants, etc.)
- ☐ Entertainment (concerts, movies, plays, favorite television shows, etc.)
- ☐ Church (weekly services, candlelight Christmas Eve service, etc.)
- ☐ Family traditions
- ☐ Visit to Santa
- ☐ Other: _____



CHRISTMAS PRACTICE:

Prepare Him Room

On each of the following scales, circle the number that indicates how you will probably behave during the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Entitled vs. Servant

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I deserve it all—gifts, attention, happiness.

I put others before myself.

ENTITLED: I expect my parents and friends to give me a great Christmas. After all, I've been good all year! It's all about me!

SERVANT: I am on the lookout for what people need, especially now—mom might need help around the house, a friend might need a listening ear, or someone might need a warm coat or a hot meal. It's all about them!

Stressed vs. Rested

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I'm stressed, tired, overcommitted.

I'm getting the rest I need, and I'm enjoying Christmas.

STRESSED: I have so many things I have to do in December! Recitals, school programs, service projects, parties, tests. It's no wonder I'm stressed!

RESTED: I am able to stay healthy even though there is a lot going on. I get enough sleep every night, I have space in my life to relax and have fun, and I don't say yes to everything.

Meltdowns

vs.

Harmony

WHEN THINGS DON'T GO MY WAY . . .

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I explode, pout, or complain.					I stay even-tempered and kind.				

MELTDOWNS: The more tired, busy, or worried I get, the more meltdowns I have. When things don't go my way, watch out!

HARMONY: I am able to express my feelings with kindness and maintain good relationships with my friends and family, even when things don't go my way.

Taker

vs.

Giver

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The more presents for me, the better.					Giving gifts is more fun than receiving them.				

TAKER: The highlight of Christmas is opening my gifts. I also love writing detailed lists so people know exactly what to get me to make me happy. I love the presents!

GIVER: I get more joy out of giving gifts than receiving them. Finding or making the gift that is just right and makes someone happy is the best part of Christmas. I love making someone smile!

Santa

vs.

Jesus

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Christmas is all about Santa.					Christmas is all about Christ.				

SANTA: To me, Christmas is summed up in one word: Santa. I'm all about the tree, the presents, the lights, the fun traditions. I'm not too concerned about Christmas having any great meaning—it's just a lot of fun!

JESUS: Christmas is all about Christ, and I try to focus on the real Gift of Christmas throughout the season. I am so thankful that Jesus came to earth as a baby, and I try to make room for him in my heart no matter how busy I get.

Review all 5 scales with your group, and brainstorm ways you can make room for Christ and welcome him into that area of your life. Is there something you might have to let go of? Is there a new tradition you can try? Is there a way you can welcome him into every moment? Write your group's ideas on a flip chart, then copy your favorites onto this worksheet.

ENTITLED VS. SERVANT (Putting Others First)

STRESS VS. RESTED (Schedule)

MELTDOWNS VS. HARMONY (Emotional)

TAKER VS. GIVER (Material Desires)

SANTA VS. JESUS (Spiritual)

CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE: Choose one of the 5 scales and find one way, even if it is small, to give more space in your life to Christ this week. Next week, come prepared to share with our group what change you made.

CHRISTMAS FOCUS: Read chapters 1–3 in *Because of Bethlehem*



“JOY TO THE WORLD”

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.