

# WEEK 3

## 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 wise men gave their worship.

#### THE BIBLE

Matthew 2:1-7, 2: 11-12, 5:35-40;  
Psalm 150:1-6

- What's your most controversial Christmas opinion?
- What's one thing you love about Christmas you wish you could experience all year long?
- When it's not Christmas time, how often do you think about the birth of Jesus? Why do you think that is?
- Why do you think it's important for us to hear and understand the wise men's role in the Christmas story?
- Since we know so little about the wise men, what do you still wonder about them?
- What did the wise men's gifts symbolize? If you could have given Jesus a symbolic gift of your own, what would you have given Him?
- Read Matthew 25:35-40. What does Jesus ask us to do here? How can doing what He asks be an act of worship?
- What are some of the ways you've worshiped God recently?
- This Christmas, what's one way you plan to worship Jesus with your words? What about with your actions?
- How do you think God might be calling you to continue worshiping even after Christmas is over?

#### ACTIVITY

Play a game of Christmas Movie charades by acting out Christmas titles, like *Elf*, *Home Alone*, *Christmas Vacation*, *A Christmas Story*, *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, *Jingle All the Way*, *Frosty the Snowman*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* or *It's a Wonderful Life*.