

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



THIS SERIES

Most people are pretty sure they know the story of Christmas. There's a baby, and a manger, and some sheep, and Santa, and – well, it's something like that. But there's a problem with seeing the story of Jesus' birth as just another story from the Bible. The story of Christmas isn't just one of many stories in Scripture – it's part of the story – the big story of God and His relationship with His creation. In this 4-week series, you'll help students see how the birth of Jesus changed the story of humanity forever in a way that was completely **unexpected, undeserved, unbelievable, and undeniable.**

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

This Christmas, let's celebrate God's unexpected grace.

THE BIBLE

Matthew 1:18-23; John 1:14
John 1:1-2

- **When you were little, what did you know about the Christmas story?**
- **Has your understanding of Christmas changed since then? How?**
- **Did hearing the Christmas story in its full context change how you think or feel about the Christmas story? How?**
- **When you heard the Christmas story in its full context, did anything surprise you? Did you learn anything new? Do you have any questions?**
- **Read John 1:1-3. What does this passage reveal about Jesus? Why does it matter?**
- **Why do you think the birth of Jesus was so unexpected at the time?**
- **How would you define "grace"?**
- **How was Jesus' birth a sign of God's grace?**
- **What's one way you're going to approach this Christmas season differently as a result of our conversation today?**