



GET STARTED with Christmas Clean-Up

In Sunday's message, Brian talked about how he wished he could clean-up Christmas by throwing all the red balls into one big box. We're going to do a contest to see which of us would be best at that kind of Christmas Clean-Up. I need 2-3 volunteers

Set the volunteers up beside one another with boxes some distance in front of them (whatever works in your space). Give each volunteer a basket/box/bowl of ping pong balls. See who can throw the most balls into the box in one minute. (You can repeat with multiple students as you wish)

It's good to be back at small group! If you're joining us for the first time, then we are very excited to have you with us tonight. There are lots of other things you could be doing right now. Let's brainstorm them: **What else could you be doing right now?**

You've made a great choice to start your year off at small group! God wants to spend time with you, and he wants to connect you with other people your age and some adults like me.

WATCH THE VIDEO.

1. In his message Sunday, Brian talked about people who don't go to church, because they're bored and feel beaten up or bullied.
 - Have you had any of those experiences in a church? *Please share carefully; we don't want to bash other churches by name here.*
 - Have you had any of those experiences here?
2. Sometimes when students disagree with something in the Bible, they feel "beaten up" by it. What's the difference between feeling convicted and beaten up or bullied?

3. We want to be the kind of church where people are **greeted**. Greetings can look differently based on age, culture, etc.
 - How do adults greet each other differently than teenagers?
 - How do you like to be greeted?
 - How do you greet your friends?
 - If a new student came to our church on Sunday, then how could we greet them in a way that's comfortable?
 - How about if they came to our small group next week?
4. We want to be the kind of church where people experience **grace**. That doesn't mean that we think all ways of living are good and what God wants; it just means that we accept people regardless of how they are living or have lived. We hope that they will be open to God working in their lives and changing them. How can we extend grace to people even when we disagree with their choices and lifestyles?
5. It can be helpful to remember that we are ALL in need of grace. When have you made a mistake and wanted a friend or family member to extend grace to you?

STUDY.

Read **LUKE 12:6-7**.

6. Can you think of anything that you could get 5 of today for just 2 pennies? Can you think of JUST ONE thing you could get for 2 pennies today? How about for 5 pennies?
7. We tend to remember the things that are valuable and forget things the little things. But God says that each one of us is valuable and remembered.
 - When do you NOT feel valuable?
 - When have you felt forgotten?

**With these next two questions, tread carefully as students talk about other teenagers. At times, you may need to call a "no names" rule to protect identities. Other times, with students who can handle it maturely and confidentially, it could be helpful for a group to identify someone they all know who they could pray for and reach out to.*

8. Who do you know that doesn't feel valuable?
9. Who do you know that feels forgotten?

CHALLENGE

Name JUST ONE person who you could greet this week or extend grace to this week—at school, home, dance/band/basketball/etc., or church. In just a minute, I'll ask you to repeat those names in our closing prayer.

PRAY.

Gather the students in a circle. Start the prayer by thanking God for each student there who is starting their year in small group. Pray that each student would feel like they matter and are not forgotten. Then, pray for the people each student named in the "Challenge" question. Prompt students to pray with you by saying something like, "Now, we will go around the circle and each say the name of JUST ONE person we want to greet to extend grace to this week..."