

City Nights

Youth.

DATE

October 8th, 2025

SERIES

The Weird Stuff: Week One

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE:

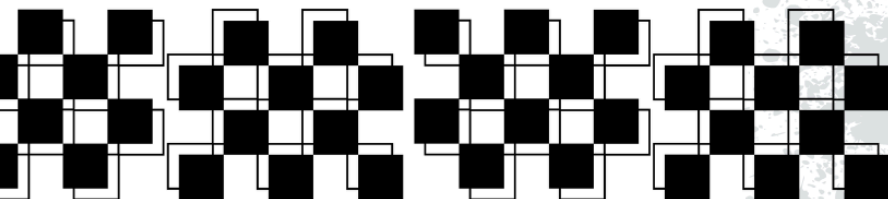
The “weird stuff” in the Bible isn’t something to be afraid of. It reminds us that faithfulness to God is a daily, intentional choice, giving us clarity, courage, and peace in a world full of pressures.

SCRIPTURE:

- Revelation 13:16-18

GOAL OF COMMUNITY GROUPS:

To encourage students to not be afraid of the weirder passages in the Bible, but to seek them out and find peace and clarity in them!



City Nights

Youth.

THINK ABOUT THIS:

This week begins our new series, *The Weird Stuff*, where we'll explore some of the weirder and often misunderstood parts of the Bible. These passages can feel somewhat scary sometimes (just in time for halloween!), but they aren't random. God included them to reveal deeper truths about Himself, the spiritual realities around us, and how we are called to live faithfully in a world full of pressures and challenges.

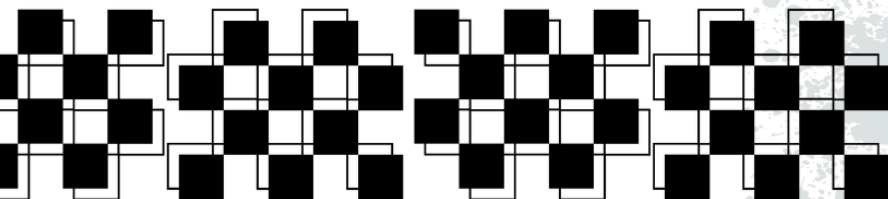
As you lead, remind your group that the goal isn't to decode hidden messages or fuel fear, but to engage Scripture thoughtfully and gain clarity. A perfect example is this week's lesson on the Mark of the Beast, which serves to call believers to reflect: *Who or what am I truly serving?*

Encourage your group to consider how this passage applies to life today. The mark isn't something you accidentally take on, it reflects the daily choices we make about our loyalty, values, and priorities. While we may not face emperor worship, we still encounter cultural pressures to compromise, chase status, or prioritize worldly power over God's ways. This passage challenges us to choose faithfulness, courage, and discernment in the face of pressure.

Create an environment for honest reflection rather than debate. If questions come up that you can't answer, guide the discussion back to the core truth: God calls us to live boldly and faithfully, trusting His power over fear or worldly influence. The "weird stuff" in Scripture equips us to navigate life with clarity and peace, reminding us that God is in control even when the world feels chaotic.

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. The goal is to get students verbally engaging, NOT to get through everything in the curriculum.

DURING COMMUNITY GROUP



HIGH/LOWS & OPENING

Begin with highs & lows from their week after they introduce each other. Really take this time to listen and ask questions to show you are interested in their lives.

ICEBREAKER:

What's the weirdest thing someone has ever said to you?

SCRIPTURE/VIDEO DISCUSSION:

(Some groups may watch the video to begin Group time and then break off into their smaller groups, and that's okay)

DISCUSS THIS

1. What do you think of when you hear about/read the weirder or stranger parts of the Bible?
2. Why do you think people tend to skip or avoid the "weird" or confusing parts of the Bible? What might we miss out on by not engaging with those passages?
3. The mark of the beast represents allegiance: a choice between loyalty to God or to worldly powers. What are some modern examples of "marks" or pressures that tempt us to put our trust or loyalty somewhere other than God?
4. The mark isn't something you can be tricked into, it's a deliberate choice. What are some daily decisions where you have to intentionally choose between following God's ways or following the world's values?
5. How does understanding passages like this one give you clarity and peace instead of fear?
6. Do you have any other questions related to the weirder stuff in the Bible?
7. The "weird stuff" in the Bible teaches courage, discernment, and faithfulness. How can those qualities help you respond when culture pressures you to compromise your beliefs?
8. What's one way you can intentionally choose God this week?

