

# WEEK 1

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

# SQUAD UP

Everyone wants a squad — a community of people that cares for us, helps and supports us, and gives us a place to belong. In short, we all want to be part of a community that feels like family. That kind of community isn't easy to come by, but it's exactly what Jesus had in mind for His followers when the Church first began. In this series, we'll discover why the word "Church" means something much bigger than a building, we'll learn what life was like for some of the earliest Christians, and we'll explore four big ideas that mean as much for us today as they did to the Jesus-followers who lived nearly 2,000 years ago. The truth is, **we can all be part of God's family**, and because we're God's family, we can **do for others what God has done for us**, we can **grow together**, and we can **stand strong together**.

## THIS WEEK

### THE BIG IDEA

We can be part of God's family.

### THE BIBLE

Ephesians 1:1-23; Galatians 3:26-28

- **Who's your favorite fictional squad and why?**
- **Who are some of the people in your squad, and how did you meet them?**
- **What are some of the times when having a squad you can trust becomes really important?**
- **What are some groups you've been a part of that have felt like family? What made those groups feel like family?**
- **Talk about a time when you didn't feel like you belonged.**
- **Do you think our church feels like a family where anyone can belong? Why or why not?**
- **Can you think of anyone who would not feel like they belong at our church? If yes, what could we do to change that?**
- **Everyone is different, but what are some of our differences that can make it difficult for us to get along?**
- **Read Galatians 3:26-28. What do you think this passage teaches us about our differences?**
- **If you're not part of God's family, what's holding you back from accepting the invitation? If you are part of God's family, how can you make it easier for others to join the squad?**