

# WEEK 2

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE



Many of our favorite movies, from *Toy Story* to *Moana*, tell the stories of characters who are on a journey to discover who they are and what they were created to do. The stories in Scripture are like this too, but with one big difference: in the Bible, humans aren't the main characters — God is. In this series, we'll explore the stories of people like Cain and Abel, Elijah, Naomi, Ruth, Esther, and some of the earliest Jesus-followers in order to see that who we are can best be understood in the context of who God is. When we discover who our Creator is, we can better understand who we were created to be. Because of who God is, we can **trust how God has made us**, we can **do difficult things**, we can **embrace the unknown**, and we can **take risks for others**.

### THIS WEEK

#### THE BIG IDEA

Because of who God is, we can do difficult things.

#### THE BIBLE

I Kings 18:18-39, 19:2-12;  
Psalm 23

- **What's one fun or exciting challenge you've faced recently?**
- **What's one difficult challenge you've faced recently?**
- **When you face a difficult challenge, how do you usually react? Excited, scared, defeated?**
- **Have you ever faced a challenge that left you feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, or afraid? Tell us about it.**
- **Why do you think Elijah faced one challenge with confidence but another challenge with fear? Can you relate?**
- **What are some of the ways God interacts with us when we face difficult things? Do you have any examples from your own life?**
- **Do you usually imagine God as mostly powerful or mostly gentle? Why is it important that God is both?**
- **Read Psalm 23. In this passage, which words or images stand out to you, and why?**
- **What's one new or interesting thing you noticed about God today? If that's true about God, what's true about you?**
- **Are you facing any difficult or overwhelming challenges right now? What do you need from God or from us in order to face it?**

#### ACTIVITY

Spend a few extra minutes leading your students through a guided reading and meditation on Psalm 23. Don't be intimidated! It's easy. First, **ask everyone to close their eyes and listen** while you read the passage slowly. Next, encourage them to **ask God to bring a word, phrase, or image to their attention** as you read the passage a second time. Next, **ask them to meditate on that word, phrase, or image** as you read the passage for a third time. Close by asking them to share what they noticed in the passage.