

# WEEK 1

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

I HAVE QUESTIONS

Let's face it, life isn't easy. In times of loss, grief, pain, or doubt, it's normal to have questions — and it's okay to ask them. If you've ever tried to make sense of your circumstances, or wished life didn't have to hurt so much, or wondered why God won't fix what you're going through, you're not alone. In this 4-week series, we'll hear about a few people from Scripture who know exactly what it's like. With Esther, David, Peter, Amos, and John, we'll explore hard questions you thought you weren't allowed to ask, like "When people are hurting, **where is God?** When I'm hurting, **why does God feel far away?** If God is good, **why do bad things happen?** And when life hurts, is **God listening?**"

### THIS WEEK

#### THE BIG IDEA

When people are hurting,  
where is God?

#### THE BIBLE

Esther 4:11-16, 7:1-10; I John 3:17-18;  
Proverbs 29:7

- **Have you ever been frustrated by something you didn't understand? What was it and why was it so confusing?**
- **When it comes to God, what are some things people might question or be confused by?**
- **Have you ever felt confused by or frustrated about God? Tell us about it.**
- **Do you think it's reasonable for people to have questions or doubts about God when there are big problems in the world? Why or why not?**
- **What do you think is the biggest problem causing suffering in the world today? What's your reaction to that problem?**
- **When there's a big problem in the world, why do you think God doesn't just miraculously fix it?**
- **Read Proverbs 29:7. How do you think we can become more concerned with the needs of others?**
- **When people are hurting or in need, how do we figure out what God wants us to do about it?**
- **How can you help someone who is hurting or in need this week?**
- **How would you (honestly!) respond to the question, "Where is God when people are hurting?"**

#### ACTIVITY

Invite students to text you some of their big questions or anonymously write them on note cards and place them on the floor in the center of your group. Read the questions together and see if there are any topics you might want to explore together during this series.