

WEEK 2

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 I'm hurting, why does God feel far away?

THE BIBLE

Psalms 22, 42:9-11; Matthew 27:39-46;
Hebrews 1:1-3a; II Corinthians 1:3-4

- How many hours in a row could you spend with your best friends before you got sick of each other?
- Has a friend ever stuck by you during a hard time? What happened?
- Have you ever gone through a hard time but felt like you were all alone? Why did you feel that way?
- What are some examples of hard times that could make someone feel abandoned by other people? What about by God?
- Why do you think the question, "God, why have you forsaken me?" is in the Bible?
- When we're hurting, what does Jesus reveal to us about what God is like?
- Have you ever felt like God was far away? What happened and why did you feel that way?
- When life gets hard, what are some things that help you pause and remember God is near?
- Read II Corinthians 1:3-4. This week, which do you need most: to be comforted or to comfort someone else? Why is that?
- How would you (honestly!) respond to the question, "When I'm hurting, why does God feel far away?"

ACTIVITY

On note cards, ask everyone to write one difficult thing they're going through (or have gone through). They don't need to write their names, but they can! Exchange cards randomly and commit to praying for each other during the week.