

WEEK 3

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

If God is good, why do bad things happen?

THE BIBLE

Amos 5:10-15; Revelation 21:1-5a;
Psalm 32:5

- **What's one really dumb way you've accidentally injured yourself?**
- **What's something bad that happened to you that you probably could have avoided?**
- **Have you ever seen something really bad happen, seemingly for no reason? What happened?**
- **What are some of the causes of the bad things we just mentioned?**
- **What was Amos' message to God's people? Why is it a message we still need to hear today?**
- **Name one bad thing that has happened in the world recently. How do you think God's people should have responded? Did we respond that way?**
- **Read Psalm 32:5. Have you hurt someone recently, or failed to help someone when they were hurting? What can you do to make it right?**
- **What's one way people are hurting right now because of other people's cruelty? How can you (or we) show them God's goodness?**
- **What's one way people are hurting right now because of tragedies that weren't anyone's fault? How can you (or we) show them God's goodness?**
- **How would you (honestly) respond to the question, "If God is good, why do bad things happen?"**

ACTIVITY

While building a Jenga tower, identify a specific injustice or tragedy your group is familiar with. Play a few rounds while trying to answer the question, "How did this happen?" Each time you remove a block, name something that could have led to that injustice or tragedy occurring. When the tower falls, rebuild it by naming something the Church can do with each block you replace.