

WEEK 4

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 life hurts,
is God listening?

THE BIBLE

Psalm 91; I John 5:14;
Lamentations 3:55-56

- **Have you ever had a major miscommunication with someone? What happened?**
- **What are some of the reasons we sometimes struggle to communicate with each other?**
- **What are some of the reasons we sometimes struggle to communicate with God?**
- **When life is hard, do you find it easier or more difficult to pray? Why do you think that is?**
- **When life is hard, what are some things we might think we're not allowed to say to God?**
- **When you pray, are you more likely to be honest or say what you think God wants you to hear? Why do you think that is?**
- **Read Lamentations 3:55-57. Does this prayer remind you of anything going on in your life right now? What is it?**
- **When you talk to God this week, what's one way you can be more honest about your feelings and questions?**
- **How would you (honestly!) respond to the question, "When life hurts, is God listening?"**
- **How can we pray for you this week?**

ACTIVITY

Give each student a note card or scrap of paper and a pen. Ask them to write down one question they're glad was answered during this series. Then ask them to write down one question about God they still have. Read the questions and commit to looking for answers together.