

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 your favorite famous or fictional feud and why?**
- **Talk about a pointless fight you've had with someone recently.**
- **Do you feel like there is a wall between you and someone else right now? What is that wall made of (resentment, misunderstanding, hurt feelings, jealousy, pride)?**
- **Have you ever felt distant or disconnected from God? What do you think caused it?**
- **In your own words, what does "reconcile" mean? How would you explain to a friend how Jesus "reconciles" us to God?**
- **What are some of the barriers that keep people from trusting Jesus' plan to reconcile us with God?**
- **Read Colossians 3:13. Which of these is more difficult for you: asking for forgiveness, or giving forgiveness? Why?**
- **If you were "building a table" for someone you need to reconcile with, what materials would you need? (Humility, patience, trust?)**
- **Is there a wall between you and God that needs to be torn down? What are you going to do about it?**
- **Is there a wall between you and someone else that needs to be torn down? What move can you make to**

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.