

WEEK 2

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

for middle schoolers



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.
- In your own words, what does "reconcile" mean? How would you explain to a friend how Jesus "reconciles" us to God?
- Read Colossians 3:13. Which of these is more difficult for you: asking for forgiveness, or giving forgiveness? Why?
- 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 make things right with them?

ACTIVITY

Spend a few minutes in prayer together, asking God to help each of you face the specific challenges you are each facing right now.