

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

RAD

When Jesus was on earth, he had a lot to say about love, but not everyone loved him. Instead, Jesus' opponents hated him, attacked him, and saw him as extreme – dangerous – revolutionary – a *radical*. And they had a point! The things Jesus taught about loving God and loving others challenged the status quo and changed the world forever. That's pretty radical. In this 4-week series from the book of James, we'll look at four ways Jesus invites us to love according to his revolutionary example. These ideas might seem simple, but when we choose to **listen more than we speak, refuse to play favorites, watch our words, and fight for peace**, we'll see just how radical Jesus' teachings really are.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

Radical people listen more than they speak.

THE BIBLE

James 1:19-21; Psalm 15;
Luke 10:25-28

- What's your favorite thing to listen to?
- Name someone in your life who is a good listener. What makes them such a good listener?
- How can you tell when someone isn't really interested in what you have to say? How does that feel?
- Why do you think most people spend more time speaking than they spend listening?
- What are some ways our relationships with others can be damaged when we don't listen well?
- Read Luke 10:25-28. In this story, how do you see Jesus listening to others?
- What are some ways listening can help us show people God's love?
- What are some situations where you find yourself speaking more than you listen? Why do you think that is?
- Which kind of listening is most difficult for you – listening with your heart, mind, body, or curiosity? What's an example?
- This week, what's one thing you can do to listen to others more? What about listening to God?