

WEEK 2

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

WITH YOU

Being a good friend is easy! As long as you make time to hang out, remember their birthday, and answer their texts, you're eligible for the Great Friend Award . . . right? Friendship might feel easy when life is easy, but it gets more complicated when your friends are hurting or struggling. What should you do? What should you say? What should you not say? When our friends need help, there are no easy answers, but in this 4-week series, we'll follow the lead of a few people who've been there. Through the stories of Job, Ruth, Naomi, Elijah, and Eli, we'll see how God invites us to "be with" people when they're **grieving, lonely, in need, or feeling hopeless**, and how God is already with them.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

Be with people when they're lonely.

THE BIBLE

Ruth 1:1-18; I John 4:11-13;
John 14:16

- **When you're stressed, would you rather be alone or surrounded by friends? Why?**
- **What's the difference between being alone and being lonely?**
- **What are some reasons why a person might feel lonely?**
- **When's the last time you felt lonely? What would have helped you feel less alone?**
- **Why do you think Ruth decided to stick with Naomi? What would you have done if you were her?**
- **Read John 14:16. When someone is lonely, what does God do? What does God invite us to do?**
- **Why is it hard to reach out to people who are lonely?**
- **How can you tell if someone is feeling lonely? What if they try to hide their loneliness?**
- **What are some ways we could make people feel less alone here at church?**
- **Who's someone who seems lonely right now? What's one thing you can do to be "with" them?**

ACTIVITY

Make a list of things your group could do to make someone feel welcome at church. Next time someone new shows up, pull out the list and get to work!