

WEEK 3

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

GOOD THINGS

Christmas is almost here! Which means there's a lot for us to look forward to – sometimes impatiently. But you know the saying, "good things come to those who wait"? It's true for Christmases now, but it was true on the very first Christmas as well. You see, the day Jesus came to earth wasn't a sudden surprise. It was the first step in a long-awaited plan. In this 4-week series, we'll hear the Christmas story from the perspective of the prophets in the Old Testament, who foretold and then waited for the good things God had in store. Christmas is a reminder of what the prophets proclaimed: that **God has always had a plan**, that **Jesus completes God's plan**, that **God's plans bring joy**, and that **God's plans require sacrifice**.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus brings joy.

THE BIBLE

Zephaniah 3:14-17; Luke 2:25-38;
Philippians 4:4

- **What's your favorite thing about Christmas?**
- **What has been the happiest moment of your life so far? How long did that happiness last?**
- **What are some of the things that can disrupt our happiness?**
- **How do you think "joy" is different from "happiness"?**
- **How does Jesus bring us joy?**
- **Read Philippians 4:4. How is it possible to rejoice "always" – even when we're unhappy?**
- **What's something going on right now that's making you unhappy?**
- **When you're unhappy, what's something that helps you choose joy?**
- **This week, what's one way you're going to try to choose more joy?**
- **This Christmas, who could you help find more joy? What are you going to do about it?**

ACTIVITY

To spread joy to each other, make a plan to swap or bake some cookies together between now and Christmas day!