

WEEK 3

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 watch their words.

THE BIBLE

James 3:1-12; Mark 7:1-8;
Luke 6:27-28

- Summarize the plot of your favorite movie in only three words.
- Are you the kind of person who says whatever you think or do you hold back? Does it depend on who you're with? Give an example!
- Have you ever said something you regretted because you didn't think before you spoke? What happened?
- What's the nicest thing anyone has said about you?
- Has anyone ever hurt you with their words? How did you react?
- Has there ever been a time when your words made an impact on someone you didn't expect? What happened?
- Read Luke 6:27-28. When people hurt us with their words, what could it look like to put these words of Jesus into practice?
- When are you most prone to being reckless with your words? What kind of harm have your reckless words caused?
- What kind of good do you think you could do this week by speaking helpful words?
- This week, what's one thing you are going to do to watch your words?

ACTIVITY

Give everyone a sweet-and-sour candy. While the candy is sour, have them list hurtful things they've heard or said recently. When it turns sweet, have them list encouraging things they've heard or said recently.