

WEEK 3

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 in need.

THE BIBLE

I Kings 17:8-16; Matthew 25:40;
Luke 12:32-34

- **What's one thing you really want, but don't really need?**
- **What are some things every person needs?**
- **What's one practical need you have but hardly ever think about? Why don't you think about it?**
- **How would your life be different if you didn't have access to that thing you need?**
- **In the story of Elijah and the widow, how did their needs get met? Why do you think God decided to do it that way?**
- **What are some of the needs that exist in the world? In our country? In your community or school? In our church?**
- **What can we do to become more aware of other people's practical needs?**
- **What are some of the barriers that keep you from helping meet the needs of others?**
- **Read Luke 12:32-34. What is Jesus saying here? Which part do you most need to hear right now?**
- **Who is someone with a need you can help meet? What's one way you're going to be "with" them?**

ACTIVITY

Find a shelter, food bank, local library, school, or organization in your area and find one need they need help meeting. Collect that item and deliver it together, or set up a time to volunteer and help in a more hands-on way!