

WEEK 4

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 fight for peace.

THE BIBLE

James 3:16-18, 4:1-3; Matthew 5:9;
Hebrews 12:14a

- What's the weirdest reason you've ever gotten into a fight?
- What are some of the most common reasons you think people fight with each other?
- Do you think all fights are bad, or could some fights be good? Why do you think so?
- Has fighting for your own self-interest ever cost you something? What happened?
- Have you ever peacefully resolved a fight with someone? How did you do it?
- Read Hebrews 12:14. If someone doesn't want to make peace with you, what do you think Jesus would want you to do?
- What's the difference between making peace and keeping the peace? What's an example of a situation where keeping the peace would prevent someone from making peace?
- What are some ways we can learn to be better peacemakers?
- Are you involved in a conflict right now that's unresolved? What's keeping you from resolving it?
- This week, what's one way you're going to fight for peace instead of your own self interest?