

WEEK 4

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 need hope.

THE BIBLE

I Samuel 1:1-20; Romans 15:13;
John 8:12

- **What's something you're really hoping will happen?**
- **What does "hope" mean to you?**
- **What makes you feel hopeful?**
- **What are some reasons a person might feel hopeless?**
- **Is having hope the same as believing God will say "yes" to your prayers? Why or why not?**
- **When a friend is really hoping for something specific, what should we say? What should we pray for?**
- **When someone feels hopeless, what does God do? What does God invite us to do?**
- **Read Matthew 5:14-16. How can Jesus-followers be a light for people who are feeling hopeless?**
- **When and how should you get help for a friend who is feeling hopeless?**
- **Who do you know who might need some hope right now? What's one thing you can do to be "with" them?**