

# WEEK 3

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE



Don't you just love a little friendly competition? There's something about being a part of a team that makes you excited to root for "us" and root against "them." With people and with God, we're often quick to see others like our enemies, but God invites us to see things differently. In this 4-week series, we'll explore the stories of Abraham, Jeremiah, Jonah, Isaiah, and more, as we see how the big story of Scripture reveals that **God is for us, we're called to be for others, God is for our enemies, and Jesus proves that God is for us.**

### THIS WEEK

#### THE BIG IDEA

God is for our enemies.

#### THE BIBLE

Jonah; Romans 5:8-10; Matthew 5:43-47

- Name one team, celebrity, or artist that you love to hate. Why do you hate them so much?
- Who does your school love to hate? Who do your friends love to hate? Who does the world love to hate?
- What are some reasons people hate each other or see each other as enemies?
- Have you ever wanted to see someone fail? What happened, and how do you feel about it now?
- Without naming names, is there anyone you see as an enemy right now? Why do you see them that way?
- How does it feel to hear that God is "for" those people? What would you like to ask or say to God about them?
- How do you need God to transform the way you see your enemies?
- What would it look like for you to be "for" your enemies?
- Read Matthew 5:43-47. Why do you think Jesus tells us to pray for our enemies? What good would that do?
- This week, what's one step you'd like to take toward being "for" an enemy?

#### ACTIVITY

Spend time as a group praying for your enemies — not by name, unless the prayer is silent. "God, this is tough, but I want to pray for \_\_\_\_\_. I believe you know what happened, and that you love me just like you love them. Please show me how to be *for* them, and then help me do it. I can't do this without you."