

WEEK 4

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

W A I T L I S T E D

You know that feeling you get when someone makes you a big promise? You probably feel excited, but you might feel a little skeptical too — especially when that promise gets delayed . . . and delayed again . . . and again. If you have to wait long enough for something you were promised, you might start to wonder when you've waited long enough. Eventually, you might even give up hope. In this 4-week series, we'll meet a handful of people from Scripture who each spent a long time waiting on God. From the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Paul and Silas, King David, and Joseph, we'll discover that **God has a plan, but we might have to wait for it**, and we'll be reminded that, while we're waiting, **God is faithful, God is listening**, and we **should never give up**, because God's not giving up on us.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

If you're waiting on God,
don't give up.

THE BIBLE

Genesis 37:2-28, 39:1-23;
Galatians 6:9

- Are you counting down the days to anything exciting right now? If so, what is it?
- Are you counting the days until the end of something you want to end (like school, a big project, or a punishment)? If so, what is it?
- What are some examples of difficult situations people sometimes face that might seem to go on forever?
- Why do you think people sometimes give up hope while they wait?
- Have you ever wanted to give up but you persevered instead? What helped you keep going?
- When you heard Joseph's story, what's something that stood out to you or surprised you and why?
- Are you facing any situations right now that make you want to give up? Would anyone like to tell us more?
- Read Galatians 6:9. How do you think we can stay encouraged when we want to give up?
- Today we talked about five ways to not give up. How have these five ideas helped you persevere? Have any of them not worked?
 - Talk to God.
 - Talk to other people.
 - Remember God is strong.
 - Remember you are strong.
 - Choose hope.
- This week, what's one step you're going to take to help you not give up?