

WEEK 2

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



Have you ever been hurt so badly by someone that you desperately wanted revenge? When we're treated cruelly or unfairly, it's natural to want justice. But what does "justice" really mean? Is it only about handing out consequences and punishment to the people who have wronged us? Or could it be about something more? How do we balance forgiveness and grace with truth and consequences? There's someone in the Old Testament of the Bible whose life has a lot to teach us about justice. In this 4-week series, the story of Joseph will help us see that **justice is love in action** and that, when we're wronged by others, we can **hold on to hope**, trust that **integrity can withstand injustice**, and learn to practice justice that **restores what's broken**.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

When there is injustice,
hold on to hope.

THE BIBLE

Genesis 37:17-28; Psalm 138:7-8;
Romans 8:36-39

- **What's your best quality? It's okay to brag!**
- **Be honest — are you someone who tends to brag? Besides bragging, what are some other things pride makes people do?**
- **What are some reasons a person might attract "haters"?**
- **When is it easy for you to brush off someone who's being cruel? When is it not easy?**
- **Between Joseph and his brothers, do you think there are any clear heroes or villains in this story? Why or why not?**
- **What are some of the ways you've seen people be cruel to each other?**
- **Why do you think people treat each other cruelly?**
- **Have you treated anyone cruelly recently? Have you been treated cruelly recently? Talk about it, if you want.**
- **Read Romans 8:38-39. How does Jesus' love help us remain hopeful when we're experiencing cruelty from others? How might Jesus' love motivate us to stop treating each other cruelly?**
- **This week, which do you need to do: stop treating someone cruelly or hold onto hope because of someone else's cruelty? How will you do that?**