

# WEEK 4

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

# GOOD THINGS

Christmas is almost here! Which means there's a lot for us to look forward to – sometimes impatiently. But you know the saying, "good things come to those who wait"? It's true for Christmases now, but it was true on the very first Christmas as well. You see, the day Jesus came to earth wasn't a sudden surprise. It was the first step in a long-awaited plan. In this 4-week series, we'll hear the Christmas story from the perspective of the prophets in the Old Testament, who foretold and then waited for the good things God had in store. Christmas is a reminder of what the prophets proclaimed: that **God has always had a plan**, that **Jesus completes God's plan**, that **God's plans bring joy**, and that **God's plans require sacrifice**.

## THIS WEEK

### THE BIG IDEA

God's plans require sacrifice.

### THE BIBLE

Luke 1:26-38, 46-55; Romans 12:1;  
Hebrews 13:16

- **Can you tell the whole Christmas story in ten seconds or less? Try it!**
- **What are some sacrifices you've had to make at Christmastime?**
- **What did Mary have to sacrifice in order to make the very first Christmas possible? What did God sacrifice?**
- **Why do you think Mary decided to make the sacrifices she made?**
- **Who's someone who has made sacrifices for you? What have they sacrificed?**
- **Read Hebrews 13:16. Why do you think the sacrifices we make for others pleases God so much?**
- **Have you ever made a sacrifice for someone else? What was it?**
- **When we make sacrifices for others, we're giving something up – but what can we gain?**
- **What are some sacrifices (big or small) you can make for others this week?**
- **What are some sacrifices (big or small) you can make for God this week?**