

WEEK 1

DISCUSSION GUIDE for middle schoolers



Some things are hard to understand – like chemistry, verb conjugations, the blockchain, or why your friend is mad at you. When we face a problem, situation, or idea we're struggling to understand, it always helps to know someone we trust can explain it to us. When Jesus was here on earth, he spent a lot of time helping his followers understand some pretty hard-to-understand ideas about God. One of the ways Jesus often made complicated ideas simpler was by explaining them through stories and metaphors, which we call parables. In this four-week series from the Gospels, we'll explore four of the parables Jesus told his followers to explain four important truths about God. These parables help us see that **God's words are a firm foundation, in God's kingdom, everyone belongs, God's words invite a response**, and that **God's kingdom is always growing**.

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

God's words are a firm foundation.

BIBLE

Matthew 4:4, 7:24-27;
Psalm 89:1-2

QUESTIONS

- When you were a kid, did you have a security blanket or comfort toy? Tell us about it!
- What are some reasons a person's life might start to feel unpredictable or unstable? Can you relate to any of those reasons?
- Retell me Jesus' parable as though I've never heard it before. Now how would you explain it to me?
- Why would someone turn to God's words in times of trouble?
- Read Matthew 4:4. Just like eating, sleeping, or checking our phones, what are some ways we could make God's words a more regular part of our days?
- This week, what's one way you're going to build more of your life on the foundation of God's words?



Share your habit stacks with each other! See if anyone has identified a habit stack that would be helpful to someone else in the group.