

# WEEK 2

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

In God's kingdom,  
everyone belongs.

### BIBLE

Matthew 20:1-16; Psalm 145:8-14;  
Ephesians 2:8-9

## QUESTIONS

- **When you were little, were you the kid who cheated at every game or the kid who tattled on the cheaters?**
- **These days, how do you usually feel or react when something seems unfair?**
- **Retell me Jesus' parable as though I've never heard it before. Then explain it to me!**
- **When someone judges or excludes other people, what do you think they're trying to gain? Do you think that's true for you too?**
- **Read Ephesians 2:8-9. What did Jesus want us to understand about God's grace?**
- **This week, what's one way you could show others that everyone belongs in God's kingdom?**



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.