

WEEK 4

DISCUSSION GUIDE For Middle Schoolers

ON THE
FLIP
SIDE

Jesus isn't known for telling people what they wanted to hear. Jesus' message was unlike any message people had ever heard before. He didn't give shallow motivational speeches or feel-good sermons. He didn't recycle the same messages other religious leaders were teaching. He flipped people's ideas about God, the world, and themselves completely upside down — usually in uncomfortable ways. **God created the world and each of us with intentional and wonderful design. When our perspectives are flipped to see as God sees we can chase after God's best for our lives.** In this four-week series, we'll compare Jesus' words in the Gospels with the words of the Old Testament prophets to see how God's words have always challenged our understanding of what's wrong or right, good or bad, and just or unjust. We'll talk about how, both then and now, **God flips our assumptions** about who God values, our **definition of righteousness**, our understanding of what's good enough, and our **definition of justice**.

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

God flips our definition of justice.

BIBLE

Psalm 99:1-9; Zechariah 7:9;
Romans 5:6-11, 12:19-21

DEFINITION OF JUSTICE: Making wrong things right.

- **Have you ever been punished for something that didn't seem fair? What happened?**
- **Instead of punishing us, how would you explain what Jesus did to restore our relationship with God?**
- **What are some reasons why our relationships with another person might need to be restored? Which of those situations have you personally experienced?**
- **Read Romans 12:19-21. What stands out to you in this passage and why? What questions do you have about it?**
- **Do you have any damaged relationships you'd like to see restored? What would it take to restore them?**
- **This week, what's one relationship (either with God or another person) you want to see restored? How can we support you?**

WHO IS YOUR ONE?