

WEEK 1

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

Jesus flipped our assumptions about who God values.

BIBLE

Matthew 5:1-12; Micah 6:8;
Psalm 139:13-14

- **What's your most valued possession? Is it actually worth a lot of money or do you just love it a lot?**
- **Who are some of the people you value most and why?**
- **What are some reasons people your age might not feel valuable? Have you ever felt that way?**
- **When you don't feel valued, what helps you (or would help you) feel valuable again?**
- **Read Psalm 139:13-14. How can this verse help us remember how much God values us?**
- **God created you with intentional and wonderful design. How does knowing that change your perspective of yourself?**
- **How can it move us to value others?**
- **This week, how will you go out of your way to value someone Jesus values?**

WHO IS YOUR ONE?