

WEEK 2

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 righteousness.

BIBLE

Isaiah 58:1-9; Matthew 22:36-40;
1 Corinthians 13:1-3

RIGHTEOUSNESS: LOVING GOD AND LOVING OTHERS WELL

- **What's a word or phrase we use today that our grandparents would definitely have trouble defining?**
- **What are some hard-to-define words you might hear at church or read in the Bible? (Anyone want to try to define any of them?)**
- **What would you say "righteousness" means to God? What would you say it doesn't mean to God?**
- **Why do you think God sees things differently from the way we see them sometimes?**
- **What should we do when our views are different from God's on something?**
- **Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. What are some ways a person might try to do what's "righteous," but fail to be loving?**
- **This week, what's one way you want to love God better? How can we help?**
- **This week, what's one way you want to love someone else better? How can we help?**

WHO IS YOUR ONE?