

WEEK 3

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

LIFELINES

Do you have any friendships you can really count on – the kind of friendships you might call your "lifelines?" God designed us to have friendships we can trust, but God also knew we'd need some help figuring out how to build friendships that are lifelines for each other. In this 4-week series, we'll look at the kind of friendship Jesus models for us: friendship that gives us **a place to be real**, gives us **a chance to grow**, gives us **a group when we feel alone**, and can even **change the world**.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

Godly friendships never leave you all alone.

THE BIBLE

John 11:1-16; Ephesians 5:1-2; Acts 2:42-47

- **Have you ever been afraid of being alone? When? What happened?**
- **What are some lonely situations you, or someone you know, have experienced?**
- **Why do you think we avoid getting involved in situations like those?**
- **In each situation, what is something brave a friend could have done to make sure no one felt alone?**
- **Have you ever done something brave to help someone feel less alone? What was it? Has anyone ever done that for you?**
- **How can a friendship with God help us when we feel alone?**
- **What stood out to you from the story we heard today about Jesus and His friends? Did anything surprise you, confuse you, or encourage you?**
- **Read Acts 2:42-47. Jesus' earliest followers did everything together – what do you think that was like? What can we learn from their example?**
- **Who is someone you could help feel less alone? What could you do for them?**
- **What's one thing you can do this week to . . .**
 - be alone with God?**
 - spend time with people who make you feel less alone?**
 - reach out to someone who feels alone?**

ACTIVITY

Use painters tape, chalk, or a hula hoop to create a 3-foot circle on the floor. Invite each person to stand in the circle to hear life-giving statements. When each student steps into the circle, have your group remind them of things that are true, valuable, lovable, and good about them. Make sure everyone gets spoken about.