

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

THE HAVES & have-nots

How many times have you compared yourself with someone else today? Seriously — see if you can count. Whether it's their stuff, their looks, their skills, or their popularity, we can't help but notice all the things other people have, and how those things compare to all the things we *wish* we had. But in this 4-week series, we're going to focus on four things that God has given to every single one of us. **You have a past, you have today, you have a future, and you have a family.** All four of these things make you valuable and uniquely you.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

You have a past.

THE BIBLE

Exodus 1-2; Psalm 139:13-16;
I Timothy 1:12-18

- **What's one of your favorite childhood memories? Why do you love that memory?**
- **In just one word, how would you describe your past? How about with one positive word and one negative word?**
- **On a scale of 1-5, how comfortable are you with telling others about your past? Why?**
- **Were there any parts of Moses' story that you identified with? Which parts, and why?**
- **Read I Timothy 1:12-18. How did God use Paul's past for good?**
- **Let's talk about our pasts — share as much as you're comfortable sharing.**
 - **HISTORY:** Where were you born? Where did you grow up? What was your childhood like?
 - **HEROES:** Who are the people that have impacted you, up close and personal? Who are the people you may have never met but consider influential in your life?
 - **HOPES:** When you were younger, what did you hope for? What did you love to do? What kind of person did you want to become?
 - **HURTS:** What are some challenging life events that have shaped you?
- **What parts of your past are you most thankful for? What can you do to express gratitude for each of them this week?**
- **Is there any part of your past that you need God to heal, redeem, or transform?**
- **If we know we need God to heal, redeem, or transform our pasts, what should we do about it?**
- **If you had to guess, how do you think God might want to use your past (or the past of someone else in this group) for good?**