

WEEK 3

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

STRONGER

Life hurts sometimes. If you haven't already experienced it, there will be a day when you'll encounter pain, failure, or loss. Sometimes the hurt we feel happens because of something we do, or something that is done to us, or something that is no one's fault at all. In this 4-week series, we'll talk about how, when life hurts, or goes wrong, or doesn't make sense, these things are true: **Jesus can redeem what's gone wrong, God can be trusted, God gives us each other, and God helps us persevere.**

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

When life goes wrong,
God gives us each other.

THE BIBLE

Romans 5:2-5 and 12:9-21; 1 John 3:18

- **Have you ever been ganged up on? Have you ever ganged up on someone else Why do you think people tend to gang up on each other?**
- **Have you ever made it through a hard time because of the people who gathered around you? What happened?**
- **If you were hurting because of your own failure, mistake, or choice, how would you want others to help you?**
- **If you were hurting because of something that happened to you, how would you want others to help you?**
- **When someone is hurting, how can we make sure we help them in the ways they want and need to be helped (and not just the ways we think they should be helped)?**
- **When we're going through a difficult time, what are some ways other people can help make us stronger?**
- **When we help others through a difficult time, what are some ways that experience can make us stronger?**
- **Read 1 John 3:18 and Romans 12:9-21. Which words or phrases stand out to you most, and why?**
- **How can our group do a better job of putting these passages into practice?**
- **Is there anything going on in your life that this group can help carry you through?**

ACTIVITY

Work together to create a Small Group Commitment. First, brainstorm your **group values**. Then brainstorm your **group promises**. You may want to re-read Romans 12:9-21 together for some ideas. Then put all of your values and promises together in a group commitment you can all agree on, and share it with the group.