

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

*a*typical

No family is perfect — not even the ones that seem "normal" on the outside. No one truly has a "normal" family, and that's okay! Sometimes it's the most not-normal families that God uses to make the most not-normal difference in the world. In this 4-week series, we'll look at four imperfect and "atypical" families from Scripture. We'll discover that not-so-typical families **are often used by God** because not-so-typical families **pray for each other, have tough conversations, and forgive each other.**

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

Not-so-typical families are often used by God.

THE BIBLE

Genesis 2-4; Romans 5:18-21;
Galatians 5:22-23

- **In 30 seconds, tell us a little bit about your family, including one funny way your family is not normal.**
- **Have you ever wished your family was different or more like other families? If so, how?**
- **What does your family have in common with Adam and Eve's family?**
- **What's one way God was good to Adam and Eve's family? How has God been good to your family?**
- **What's one major way your family seems "imperfect?" (Is it your family structure? Family dynamics? Your family's situation? Your family's past? Your family's faith?)**
- **How do your family's imperfections make you feel? Give an example.**
- **Read Galatians 5:22-23. What are some ways we can demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit when we're hurt, frustrated, or angry about our family's imperfections?**
- **What's one way you'd like God to heal, transform, comfort, or help your family?**
- **How might God be able to use your family's imperfections for good?**
- **This week, what's one way you're going to let God use you for good in your family?**

ACTIVITY

Create family "recipe cards" together on index cards. Use this example formula as inspiration, or invent your own! Compare recipe cards when they're finished.

MY ATYPICAL FAMILY:

1 Part Mom
1 Part Step-dad
3 Parts Brothers
1 Part Sister
1 Part Me
1 Part Crazy Loud
1 Part Family Dinners