

# WEEK 4

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

ON THE  
FLIP  
SIDE

When Jesus was on earth, he wasn't exactly 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. And that's always how God's words have worked! 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 justice.

#### **BIBLE**

Psalm 99:1-9; Zechariah 7:9;  
Romans 5:6-11, 12:19-21

### QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been punished for something that didn't seem fair? What happened?
- Can you think of any wrongs that can be made right by someone getting punished? Can you think of any that can't?
- How is God's definition of justice often different from ours?
- Why is it good news that God's definition of "justice" is more than just punishment?
- Instead of punishing us, how would you explain what Jesus did to restore our relationship with God?
- What are some reasons why our relationships with another person might need to be restored? Which of those situations have you personally experienced?
- Read Romans 12:19-21. What stands out to you in this passage and why? What questions do you have about it?
- Do you have any damaged relationships you'd like to see restored? What would it take to restore them?
- Do you have any damaged relationships you don't want to see restored? What are some valid reasons to not rebuild a relationship that was broken?
- This week, what's one relationship (either with God or another person) you want to see restored? How can we support you?