

WEEK 2

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



THIS SERIES

If you tried to define “friendship” based only on what you see on Instagram, you might think #friendship was all about group hugs, selfies with your bestie, or tagging each other in your favorite memes. But real friendship isn’t so picture perfect. In this 4-week series, you’ll challenge students to build the kind of friendships that go beyond the surface – the kinds of friendships you’ll need when times get tough. You’ll look at three key friendships as Scripture, as well as the friendship God offers us through Jesus, as you help teenagers see that Godly friendships can **shape us**, **heal us**, and **purify us** – especially during difficult times.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

In the fire, true friendships
can be healing.

THE BIBLE

Ruth 1:1-22
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

- What's an example of a "fire" that could leave someone feeling broken?
- How can friendships help heal us in the midst of those fires?
- What's so impressive about what Ruth does for Naomi in today's story?
- Of all the stories that could have been told in the pages of Scripture, why do you think this one has been recorded? Why is it important to God?
- When has a friend helped you heal from a difficult experience?
- Do you know of any friends who need healing right now? If you don't, why do you think that is?
- How might a hurting friend need you to stick with them, even if they're pushing you away?
- Like Naomi, how can you better demonstrate the kind of faith (even on your worst days) that your friends will want to experience?
- Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. What's one step you can take this week to build more friendships like this passage describes?