

WEEK 4

DISCUSSION GUIDE



Our favorite Christmas memories might involve snowball fights, presents, or time with people we love. The end of the year is a great chance for us to reflect on everything that's happened and everyone around us. When we really think about it, there's so much we can be thankful for each and every year — even if things didn't work exactly how we planned. God has given us so much, and the birth of Jesus is a great way to focus on all of the gifts we've received this year. Retelling these classic Christmas stories will teach us about gratitude and thankfulness during this four-week series. As students hear about the prophecies and stories of Jesus' birth, they'll be reminded to be thankful for each other, what God has done, and God's promises, and to be thankful even when it's not easy.

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Be thankful even when it's not easy.

BIBLE

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24;
Matthew 1:18–25, 2:9–15; Psalm 46:1–3

- **What is one gift you didn't appreciate when you got it but came to love later?**
- **What is your relationship with the holidays? Is it fun and exciting? Is it complicated? Somewhere in between?**
- **Do you feel like you have to fake positivity during the holidays? Why?**
- **Who do you relate with in Matthew 1:18–25 and 2:9–15?**
- **What surprised you in the story of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus' escape to Egypt?**
- **What is one thing you saw in Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians that you could start to put into practice?**
- **Do you have a place in your life that you feel is not okay? If you feel comfortable sharing, what is going on? What would support look like for you?**
- **Is there a place in your life where you sense that God is not done working yet? What would you need to prioritize talking to talk to God about it this Christmas season?**
- **Read Psalm 46:1–3. What is one thing in this passage that can help you be thankful even when it's not easy?**
- **Who is someone you can go to when things aren't easy? What is one thing they can do to help remind you to be thankful in challenging moments?**