

# WEEK 4

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

God hears our cries.

### BIBLE

#### Jesus Dies on the Cross

Luke 23:32-49; Psalm  
31:9-16

### ABOUT THIS WEEK

Being in the dark can feel scary—especially when things hurt or don't make sense. This week, Jesus is on the cross, surrounded by pain and sadness, but even then, he shows love and forgiveness to the people around him. In our toughest, most confusing moments, God is not far away. We can cry out and trust that **God hears our cries.**

### MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?" – Psalm 27:1a (NIV)



## DISCUSSION

### BIBLE QUESTIONS

- **Who cried out to Jesus things like "Save yourself if you're really the king"?** Soldiers, rulers, people watching.
- **Who cried out to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom"?** One of the criminals beside Jesus.
- **Who cried out to God, "Into your hands I commit my spirit"?** Jesus.
- **Read Psalm 31:14–16. How can you tell the writer of this psalm knew God hears our cries?** The verse says things like "I trust in you," "my times are in your hands," and "save me in your unfailing love."

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **When are times that you feel sad, worried, or any other big emotion?**
- **What are some words you can use to cry out to God when you are feeling these things?**
- **How do you think crying out to God can help when things are tough?**

## ACTIVITY

### WHAT TO DO



Cover tables with disposable tablecloths, pass out art smocks, and have kids paint rocks with glow-in-the-dark paint or markers. They can paint the Big Idea on the rocks and any pictures or words that remind them of Jesus and his love for us.

### WHAT TO SAY

**Did you know before Jesus was captured, he entered the city of Jerusalem on a donkey and the crowd greeted him happily? Some of the religious leaders did not like this and told Jesus to tell his disciples to be quiet. But Jesus said that if they were quiet, then the rocks would cry out instead! Rocks—like the ones you are holding—would cry out! That tells us... we can cry out to God at any time. And each time we do, God hears our cries!**