

WEEK 3

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

BREAKING
NEWS

THE BIG IDEA

When times are tough, I can count on God.

THE BIBLE

Zephaniah: Zephaniah 1:7,12-18, 3:14-17;
(1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

QUESTIONS

- What can you tell me about Zephaniah?
- What was the bad news?
- What was the good news?
- The Bible verses we read in 1 Thessalonians tell us to “not be like the others, who are asleep.” What do you think this means for you and me?
- Has there ever been a time when you felt like you weren't sure you could trust God?
- How can we trust God in our everyday lives?
- How will you trust God in your life this week?

ACTIVITY

REFLECTION | Count On God

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite the kids to spend a few moments in prayer. You can play some soft music in the background.*
- Right now, I want us to take a few moments to pray. This week, how will you stand out from the crowd and trust God? Maybe you will tell someone about God and invite them to church. Maybe you will show kindness to someone who has been mistreated. Let's take a few seconds to pray and ask God to help us do that.

ACTIVITY | Wanted Poster

- Let's make Wanted Posters of ourselves and remind ourselves to be the kind of people God is looking for – people who always count on God!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a copy of the Wanted Poster printable. Tell them to draw a picture of themselves in the space provided. Then have them write, "counting on God" in the space provided.
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Instead of a "Wanted Poster," make this activity a "Want Ad," like the classifieds in a newspaper. Ask the kids to create a brief job listing with a description of someone who can count on God when times are tough. What qualities should this person have? How should they live their lives? Have the kids reflect and write their want-ad with this job description on a sheet of paper.

ACTIVITY | Build Up Notes

- The verses we just heard from I Thessalonians tells us to encourage each other and to build each other up. Let's take some time to do that right now.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid about five sticky notes and a pencil. Tell them to find five friends to share notes of encouragement with. Ask them to write a note encouraging each other or describing how they know that person can count on God. Tell them to stick the sticky note on that person's clothing (maybe their back), but place one note on top of another so that they are stacked. Encourage them to remember to notice if someone does not have a note and include them.

ACTIVITY | News Clips

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a copy of the News Clips printable and have them write "I can count on God." And draw an illustration for the newspaper.
- A lot of newspapers are called "the Times" because they tell us of what has happened at specific times. Keep your "newspaper" with you to remember that God is there for you at ALL times. And of course, **when times are tough, you can count on God!**

MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH: *1 Corinthians 16:13 NIV*

Looking for sign language? Go to growcurriculum.org/1Corinthians16-13 and get memorizing!