

# WEEK 2

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

focus

It's not easy to stay focused. Especially these days, when we're connected to a never-ending stream of new notifications, ads, messages, videos, posts, and entertainment, it makes sense if we feel a little distracted sometimes. Maybe you've struggled recently to stay focused on your homework, or on the story your friend was telling you, or on the movie you were watching — but have you ever struggled to stay focused when you were spending time with God? In this four-week series, we're going to get honest about how difficult it can be to stay focused when we're trying to pray, read the Bible, or grow in our faith. Each week, we'll explore passages from Psalms and the Gospels as we challenge ourselves to focus on practicing four spiritual disciplines that can help us grow. Together, we'll try focusing on **what God has said**, on **giving something up**, on **talking to God**, and on **rest**.

### THIS WEEK

#### BIG IDEA

Focus on giving something up.

#### BIBLE

Matthew 6:16-18; Psalm 121:1-8;  
Romans 12:9-11

### QUESTIONS

- What's one thing you couldn't go a day without?
- Have you ever given up something you really liked for a good reason? What happened?
- Why do you think fasting is such a popular way for people to get close to God?
- Have you ever tried fasting from something before? If so, what was the most difficult part?
- What are some of the ways you think fasting could be misused?
- Have you ever been tempted to do something because it would make you seem more "holy"? What happened and how do you feel about it now?
- How can you tell if you're fasting for good reasons or selfish reasons? How easy do you think it is to tell the difference?
- How do you think giving something up could help you grow closer to God?
- Read Romans 12:9-11. How do you think we could apply this passage to fasting?
- This week, what's one thing you're going to give up to help you better focus on God?



Share your habit stacks with each other! See if anyone has identified a habit stack that would be helpful to someone else in the group.