

## BIG IDEA

**When things look their worst, Jesus is at his best.**

## WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

People have a tendency to say trite statements to those who are suffering. Have you been guilty of this? Have you been the recipient? Why do we tend to do say these things?

**Listen to Isaiah 61:1-4 as it is read aloud: what words or phrase jump out at you?**

**Listen to the passage again and focus on the word(s) or phrase: what images or people come to mind?**

How does God call us to interact with those who are going through difficult times?

**Read Luke 4:16-21.** How does this passage deepen your understanding of Isaiah 61:1-4?

What can we learn about Jesus from both of these passages?

## WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12.** What emotions and challenges can you identify in this passage? How can you relate?

What do you think it means to carry around the death of Jesus in our bodies? Have you ever felt this way?

**Re-read 2 Corinthians 4:10.** How does this passage support the big idea?

## WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-18.** According to this passage, what attitude are Christ-followers called to live out during times of suffering? How do our attitudes impact those around us?

When you find yourself in difficult seasons, do your words reflect what you say you believe? Are they filled with grace?

Reflect on a recent hard season. Where were you able to show gratitude? How is God challenging you to grow in gratitude?

**Re-read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.** Paul encourages believers to “not lose heart.” How is this possible? Based on this passage, what steps can we take to endure dark times?

