

SHINE! SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK 3

DECEMBER 18, 2011

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL
WORSHIP WITH YOUR LIFE:

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD BETTER, GIVE BACK TO HIM



JESUS: HIS RESURRECTION

Jesus' resurrection is celebrated on Easter, but the fact that Jesus rose from the dead is way bigger than any holiday we celebrate. If he had never risen from the dead, then the forgiveness, eternal life, and hope for today and for the future aren't true. But if he did... then those things really are available to us. Today we'll explore the evidence for the Resurrection and why we can believe it.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT...

- * READ LUKE 24:1-12 AND 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-20 & 50-58 TOGETHER.
- * GOD CAN HELP YOU OVERCOME THE FEAR OF FAITH.
 - Which do you think is more important: Jesus' birth or resurrection?
 - Do you think fear ever plays a part in why some people choose not to follow Jesus?
 - 1 Corinthians 15:13-14 is a powerful passage. Have you ever feared that your faith might be useless? Do these verses strengthen your faith or do they make you concerned?
- * GOD CAN HELP YOU OVERCOME THE FEAR OF YOUR DOUBTS.
 - Is it OK to have doubts about your faith?
 - If you do have doubts about your faith, but you find answers to ease those doubts, how might your faith change or be affected?
 - Some say we should just "take everything on faith" regarding Jesus' death and resurrection. Do you agree, or do you think we should be able to have more than blind faith to go on?
- * GOD CAN HELP YOU OVERCOME THE FEAR OF DEATH.
 - Are you afraid of death?
 - Are you more afraid of the actual experience of death, or of what will happen to you after you die? (1 CORINTHIANS 15:54-55)
- * TAKING IT HOME.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 says there were many eye witnesses to Jesus' resurrection. With that many witnesses, why do you think people still struggle(d) to believe that Jesus rose from the dead?
 - Does 1 Corinthians 15:56-57 mean we'll never sin again? How would you explain this verse to someone who doesn't know the Bible?
 - Pair up with a friend and, together, personalize 1 Corinthians 15:58. If Paul were speaking directly to you in this verse, in what areas would he tell you to "work enthusiastically for the Lord"?

MEMORIZE: For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless (1 Corinthians 15:13-14).

DECEMBER'S FAITH SKILL

#5 WORSHIP WITH YOUR LIFE

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD BETTER,
GIVE BACK TO HIM

WHEN IT COMES TO GETTING TO KNOW GOD BETTER, THERE ARE A FEW THINGS THAT EVERY JESUS-FOLLOWER NEEDS TO KNOW. WE CALL THEM **THE 5 FAITH SKILLS**, AND EVERY MONTH IN SHINE! YOUR SMALL GROUP LEADER IS GOING TO HELP YOU BETTER DEVELOP ONE OF THESE SKILLS. WE CAME UP WITH A FEW IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES TO HELP YOU GROW IN THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL, BUT YOU CAN COME UP WITH YOUR OWN TOO...

#1 WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER FOR WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU

worshiping God isn't difficult or complicated. It should be easy and even natural for a follower of Jesus, because worship is simply our response to everything God is and everything He has done for us! As a small group or on your own, spend time writing down what God has done in your life personally, and who He is. Then talk to Him - thank and praise Him for who He is and what He's done.
SMALL GROUP LEADERS: we've got blank paper and stuff to write with at the Small Group supply station.

#2 GIVE TO GOD BY GIVING TO OTHERS THIS CHRISTMAS

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us that every time we love, help, or serve someone in need with the heart of Jesus, it's as if we did it for God Himself. This Christmas, there are many people in need both around the world and in our own communities. This month, either as a small group or with your family, give to God by giving to others.
SMALL GROUP LEADERS: Pick up a guide to helping your students find ways to serve and give to others this Christmas. They're at the Small Group supply station!

#3 SPEND 3 WEEKS IN YOUR QUIET TIME LEARNING HOW TO WORSHIP GOD BETTER

If you want to better understand what it means to worship God in your everyday life, check out this 3-week quiet time plan that you can either do on your own, or with your small group. This reading plan will walk you through what God's word says about worshipping God with our talents, worshipping through a heart of thankfulness, and praising Him for what He's done for us.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: This reading plan is at the Small Group Supply station, and is also accessible on youversion.com or on the "Bible" mobile phone app (it's actually 3 plans combined: "Stewardship," "Thankfulness," and "God's Promises").