

SHINE! SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK 2

FEBRUARY 5, 2012

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL NAVIGATE THE BIBLE

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD BETTER, READ HIS WORD!



WALKING IN WISDOM WISE HABIT: FRIENDS THAT MAKE YOU BETTER God designed the church (the actual place we get together AND the community of every Jesus-follower all over the world) to be sources of relationships and connections. One of the best ways to have friendships that make you a better person & better Jesus-follower is to have "accountability" with other believers that you trust. We'll talk about what that means today.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT...

- * **HARMONY PROVIDES SATISFACTION. READ PSALM 133 TOGETHER.**
 - Talk about your most enjoyable, satisfying friendship. Why do you enjoy that person and your friendship so much?
- * **HARMONY PROVIDES REFRESHMENT.**
 - How do relational tension & conflict affect you emotionally, physically and spiritually? Why do you think tension & conflict do this to us?
 - What are some ways that harmony & teamwork encourage and refresh you? Why do you think they have this effect on us?
- * **HARMONY TAKES WORK.**
 - In your life, what have been some positive and negative results of conflict with other people?
 - What are some ways that you've added to the unity of a group or a team? How have you seen yourself or others grow when a group or a team has been unified and in harmony?
- * **TAKING IT HOME.**
 - If a friend is making bad choices what should you do, if anything? Does your answer change depending on how close you two are?
 - Have you ever decided to point out something in a friend's life that you believed was hurting that person spiritually? Don't give details, but how did it go and what happened?
 - **READ JOHN 13:35.** How can Christians' love for each other prove that they're true followers of Jesus? Does that seem too simple? Explain.
 - How does it feel when a friend points out your problem areas? How does it feel if someone who isn't a close friend points them out?
 - In what areas are you afraid to be open and honest with others? Those are usually the things we need to talk about most!
 - **This week, SHINE! wants to challenge you to work on developing the habit of being open and honest with other believers so that you can help each other become better people & Jesus followers. Talk about who those people might be for you and how you can do that.**

MEMORIZE: "How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!" (Psalm 133:1)

FEBRUARY'S FAITH SKILL

#1 NAVIGATE THE BIBLE

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD BETTER, READ HIS WORD.

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 3 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 THE BIBLE ISN'T SCARY! GET A LITTLE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH IT

As a small group, talk about the basics of the Bible - see what you already know about it and learn some new things too. Then check out some of the activities and projects you can do to help you get to know God's word even better.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: Activity guides, candy prizes and other activities are at the Small Group supply station for you!

#2 USE A CALENDAR TO KEEP TRACK OF TIME SPENT IN GOD'S WORD

When it comes to navigating, understanding, and feeling comfortable with the Bible, the most important thing we can do is to READ IT. We've printed some calendars for every month of the year (and they fit right inside your SHINE! binder) - use them to track what you read in God's word every day. It will help you develop more consistency in your time with God, and is a great way to journal and reflect on what he teaches you each month.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: Calendars are available on the Theater counter through August. Give your students the entire 12-month package and encourage them to keep it in their binders.

#3 SPEND 3 WEEKS STUDYING WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT HIS WORD IN YOUR QUIET TIME

Maybe you're not totally convinced that reading God's word is important on a daily basis. Or maybe you just want to find out more about God's word and what God can do in your heart and life when you read it. Either way, this 3-week plan will show you some really cool things that the Bible says about...well, itself.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: This 3-week reading plan (Time with God PLUS) is available at the Small Group supply station.