

# SHINE! SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

## WEEK 4

### FEBRUARY 19, 2012

#### THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL NAVIGATE THE BIBLE

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



#### WALKING IN WISDOM WISE HABIT: BEING INVOLVED WITH YOUR CHURCH

You may have heard someone tell you that you are "the church of the future." Well, we actually think you're "the church of TODAY." You don't need to wait to get involved, make a difference, and serve others - you're important to God TODAY and can make an impact for Him NOW. Today we'll talk about that and give you some ideas on how to do it!

#### THINGS TO TALK ABOUT...

##### \* GOD HAS GIVEN YOU THE SKILLS. READ PSALM 78:70-72.

- what kinds of things do you do well? (Skills, character traits...)
- How might David have imagined God using his talents (being a teenage shepherd) later in life? Do you think he was surprised when he was chosen to be king of his entire nation?
- what kind of evidence is there in your life that God can move and work through you to help other people?
- Have you ever asked God to do incredible things for your life? SHOULD we pray that? If so, what should our motives be?

##### \* BE READY FOR OPPORTUNITIES.

- when have you been able to get involved with a ministry, church, or other similar organization? what was that experience like?
- what's something you could do or get involved with right now to serve other people here in our church?
- what are some ways you and your friends or peers could start or join a ministry that reaches out to your community or school?

##### \* LET YOUR LIFE BE AN EXAMPLE.

- How can you be an example to others in our church?
- How have you seen students your age be an example to their peers or even to the adults in their lives?
- How can you make an impact on people who are older than you?

##### \* TAKING IT HOME.

- If you could do something meaningful for God, what would it be?
- This week, SHINE! wants to challenge you to work on developing the habit of serving others in the name of Jesus - in other words, being "on mission" for what God has called us to do and be. Talk in small group today about what you can do to make a difference for God in the world around you, TODAY!

**MEMORIZE:** "don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity (1 Timothy 4:12).

## 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 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 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.