

SHINE! SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK 5

FEBRUARY 26, 2012

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL NAVIGATE THE BIBLE

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



WALKING IN WISDOM WISE HABIT: GIVING BACK TO GOD

We live in a stuff-oriented culture. Everywhere we look, we're reminded of all the things and trends that we "have" to have. This week, we're going to talk about how we can fight against that kind of mentality, and why fighting against it is so important in order for us to glorify God with our money. And nothing breaks the grip of materialism like the spiritual discipline of giving!

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT...

* EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD. READ PSALM 24:1 TOGETHER.

- what's the best thing someone has ever shared with you? why did you appreciate it so much?
- Do you think most people really believe what psalm 24:1 says?
- If you REALLY believe this verse, what impact should it have on your life and the way that you make decisions every day?
- what's the greatest gift or blessing that God has given you?
- How can it be freeing to accept the fact that everything is God's?

* EXAMINE YOUR ATTITUDE ABOUT GIVING.

- Do you think your attitude matters when you give to God with your money? what about with other things?
- what are some wrong or unhealthy reasons to give to God?
- Do you find it easy or difficult to give to God with your money?

* TAKING IT HOME.

- READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7. If you can't give joyfully and cheerfully, should you give at all?
- what could help fuel your desire to give to God cheerfully?
- READ PROVERBS 11:24-25. How could this apply to someone your age?
- when we talk about tithes and offerings to God, is it ok to talk about experiencing God's blessing in return? why or why not?
- READ PROVERBS 3:9-10 AND MALACHI 3:10. why does God promise to bless us if we give faithfully?
- Life is about "giving what you have" to serve others. How are you doing that now and how would you like to be better at it?
- why do you think the Bible talks about money so much?
- This week, SHINE! wants to challenge you to work on developing the habit of giving of your money as well as your time and talents. Talk about some practical things you can do THIS WEEK to become a better giver of what you have to God and to others.

MEMORIZE: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him (psalm 24:1).

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 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.