

SHINE! SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK 2

JANUARY 15, 2012

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL SHARE YOUR GRACE STORY

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD BETTER, TALK TO OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT HIM.



MODERN FAMILY LEARNING TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER

Last week we talked about the importance of LISTENING in order to have good communication with our families. But on top of just listening, we also need to work to UNDERSTAND each other. Today we'll talk about the Bible's picture of healthy relationships - ones filled with patience, humility, forgiveness, love, and understanding.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT...

- * EXAMINE YOUR FAMILY, HONESTLY. READ COLOSSIANS 3:12-15 TOGETHER.
 - which words from those verses jump out as ideas that might help a family develop healthier, happier relationships with each other?
 - which of those words do you think your family exhibits? which ones does your family need to work on?
 - How effectively does your family communicate with each other? what do you think makes communication tough or easy in your family?
 - when is your family able to be honest with each other? when are you not able to be honest each other?
- * ADMIT YOUR WEAKNESSES.
 - Is it difficult for you to take responsibility for your actions that might hurt your family or weaken your family relationships?
 - Think about the last time you admitted you were wrong and asked someone for forgiveness. How did that impact your relationship with that person?
- * REALIZE YOU NEED GOD'S HELP.
 - when you read the habits of good relationships in Colossians 3:12-15, did you feel encouraged or discouraged? Do you think it's easy to develop those habits?
 - what do you think it means to be "dependent" on God and ask for His help? what daily choices can you make to foster dependence?
- * COMMIT TO GROW AND CHANGE.
 - what's one thing you'd like to see change in your family? How can you help make that change happen?
- * TAKING IT HOME.
 - READ PROVERBS 11:2-5. How can you become someone who is "directed by honesty"? How can humility and honesty help you have healthier relationships with your family and others?
 - Pray for each other and your families.

MEMORIZE: Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness & patience (Colossians 3:12).

JANUARY'S FAITH SKILL

#4 SHARE YOUR GRACE STORY

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD BETTER,
TALK TO OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT 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 SHARE SOME GOD STORIES AS A SMALL GROUP

When we talk about the idea of "grace stories," remember that, while your story with God may have started when you gave your life to Him, your story's not over yet! Spend some time in small group this month sharing stories about God - how He rescued you, what He's teaching you, what prayers He's answered, and how He might be using you to make a difference.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: Pick up a discussion starter guide to help your group get their stories going.

#2 LEARN HOW TO WRITE YOUR STORY SO FAR AND THEN SHARE IT WITH SOMEONE

Sometimes it's hard to figure out how to tell others our grace stories. It can be intimidating, especially if you've never before thought about your story or shared it with someone. So to help you get started, we have a short book that you can take home (for free) to help you think through, write out, and share your story.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: "The 2nd Greatest Story Ever Told" is available at the Small Group Supply Station!

#3 SPEND 3 WEEKS STUDYING WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT SHARING YOUR STORY IN YOUR QUIET TIME

The last thing that Jesus said before He returned to heaven was to tell us, His followers, to go into the world and tell others about Him - to be His representatives. This month, spend some time in God's word learning about this important message from Jesus, and how you can be on mission with God by sharing His story, and your story of His grace, with others.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: This 3-week reading plan is available at the Small Group Supply Station.