

SHINE! SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION WEEK 4

JULY 17, 2011



JESUS REALLY SAID THAT?

Jesus Warns About the World's Hatred:

Following Jesus means going against the world's way of doing things. When we do that, people will notice... and some will respond with criticism, rejection, or persecution. Jesus faced all of this, and so did many of his disciples after Him. But whatever we face, or focus needs to be on Jesus and his example - if we follow the world's ways instead of seeking His, then we'll miss His best for our lives.

Some things to think about...

- * Read John 15:13 - 16:4 together as a group.
 - when your friends or family have heard you talk about Jesus or your faith, how have they responded?
 - when you face hatred or rejection because of your faith, what helps you endure it?
 - In some countries, christian are thrown in prison, their families disown them, or they may even be killed for their faith. How do you think those risks affect those christians' lives? How can their perspective on following God be different from yours, and why?
- * In verse 27, Jesus tells his disciples they need to tell people about Him because they walked alongside him for over three years. Does this command apply to us today too? How could it, if we've never physically walked with Jesus?
 - How is your grace story different from the disciples' stories?
 - Remember that what Jesus said in this passage happened just before he was killed. How does that fact change the way you view what he said, or how you apply it?
 - when have you taken a risk for Jesus or been bold for your faith?
- * In John 15:26, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to be a "counselor" to His followers. How does the Holy Spirit actually counsel us?
 - Have you ever ignored the Spirit when you felt like He was prompting you to do something? Describe what happened.
- * How might it have felt to hear Jesus tell you that you would face persecution, rejection, and maybe even death? How might that have affected your willingness to continue believing in Jesus or following Him?
- * Read Philippians 3:12-14 together. How can these verses encourage and remind you to stay focused and obedient to Jesus when you're taking a risk for Him? How do you turn these verses into practical steps of faith in your life?

MEMORIZE: "I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me." (Philippians 3:12)

THE 5 FAITH SKILLS

There are 5 REALLY IMPORTANT THINGS that every follower of Jesus should know how to do - we call them The 5 Faith Skills. Why are they so important? Because they're the skills that you need TO GET TO KNOW GOD BETTER!

This summer, we want you to take a look at all five of these faith skills, and ask yourself some questions...

- 1. NAVIGATE THE BIBLE** Do I read the Bible regularly? Can I find my way around it? Do I understand the story that God tells through His word?
- 2. PERSONALIZE SCRIPTURE** Do I know how to apply God's word to my life, my choices, and my actions? How can I do a better job of memorizing His word and hiding it in my heart?
- 3. DIALOGUE WITH GOD** How often do I talk to God? Do I know what to pray for? How can I get to know God better through prayer?
- 4. SHARE YOUR GRACE STORY** What is my grace story? Which of my friends and family members need to hear me tell the story of what God has done in my life?
- 5. WORSHIP WITH YOUR LIFE** Am I worshipping God with my whole life? How can I do a better job of giving back to Him? How can I serve God and serve others better?

Think you need some help getting better at some of these 5 Faith Skills? Talking to your parents and your Small Group Leader is a great place to start!