

SHINE!

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK 3

JUNE 19, 2011

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:
WORSHIP WITH YOUR LIFE

If you want to know God better, give back to Him!



A LIFE...INTERRUPTED

Nehemiah got other people involved in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, he didn't try to do it alone. He also had to learn how to keep working in spite of his enemies. Today we'll learn that when God calls us to do something significant, we will need other people and we will also need to endure criticism. We'll also talk about how YOU have opportunities to get involved and make a difference in the world - right now!

Some things to think about...

- * Read Nehemiah 3 + 4 together as a group.
 - Sometimes we do things "by the seat of our pants" instead of planning a strategy. What are the pros + cons of planning ahead?
 - If God is in control of everything, and he works through us, then why do we need to plan ahead?
- * Why was it important to the writer of Nehemiah that, in chapter 3, he list all these different workers and the portions of Jerusalem that they helped rebuild?
 - When were you involved in a team project that had people working in areas where they weren't skilled or gifted? What happened?
 - What truth about pulling off a big project is found in Nehemiah 3:12?
- * Look at verses 1-3. Why did Sanballat and Tobiah start by mocking the Jews and their efforts at rebuilding Jerusalem's walls, before making plans to attack the city?
 - If you were one of the citizens of Jerusalem, what would you be feeling and doing after you heard about plans to attack the city?
- * Sanballat and Tobiah mocked the workers but people stayed focused on the project. When have mockery or criticism distracted you spiritually? How did you overcome those obstacles, or how did they knock you off track?
- * Read Philippians 3:12-14. How can these words encourage and inspire you as you prepare to lead the way?
- * How can you create the most effective plans in leading the way with the problem you believe God wants to you address (or problems, if each person focused on a different issue)? How do you need to plan for this? Who are some people you could get involved with your plan?
- * As you begin confronting this problem (or problems), where might you encounter obstacles or opposition? How might you respond?

MEMORIZE: "At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm." (Nehemiah 4:6)

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FAITH SKILL

FOR JUNE

WORSHIP WITH YOUR LIFE

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD BETTER,
GIVE BACK TO HIM.

Students should be able to give back to God through private and public worship and acts of service toward God and others.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: This month, spend time diagnosing where your group is spiritually - specifically as it relates to worshiping with Your Life. What are their strengths? What are their weaknesses? Then think creatively to find ways to help them grow!

Here are some simple ideas to get you started...

- 1) **SERVE TOGETHER!** Talk with your group (and their parents!) about charities or organizations that they are passionate about, and then act on one of them. Take a trip to serve somewhere together. Take up a collection during small group or at a small group party to benefit someone in need. The key to cultivating in students a desire to serve is to help them see what an impact they can make! Students will never believe they are significant if they never have anything significant to do... so give them something to do!
- 2) **TALK ABOUT WORSHIP.** Spend some time this month talking with your group about what it means to worship. It's not just what you do when the band is playing on Sunday mornings - it's how you live, the choices you make, and what you do to give back to God even when no one else sees or knows about it.
- 3) **PRAISE + THANK GOD FOR STUFF!** Give your group a fun and practical way to give back to God through praise and worship. Create a bulletin board, a book, a painting, or anything else that you can think of where you can keep track of your students' praises. Each week, ask them what they are thankful for and remind them to keep track of things during the week too. Record them all, and at the end of the month give every student a copy as a reminder of all the things we have to praise God for.