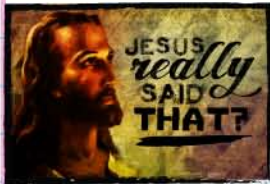


# SHINE! SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION WEEK 1

JUNE 26, 2011

## THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL: WORSHIP WITH YOUR LIFE

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



### JESUS REALLY SAID THAT?

**Jesus Speaks to Nicodemus:** Late one night, Nicodemus (a Jewish spiritual leader) came to learn from Jesus - secretly, to avoid controversy. Jesus told Nicodemus something about salvation that caused a lot of controversy... "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

### Some things to think about...

- \* Read John 3:1-21 together as a group.
  - why do you think Nicodemus wanted to talk to Jesus?
  - How would you have reacted if Jesus told you what he said in 3:3?
  - why would Jesus talk to Nicodemus in a way that seemed to intentionally confuse him?
- \* why do you think John 3:16 is so well-known, but 3:17 isn't?
  - Jesus said he was more concerned with saving people than condemning people. why is it so easy for us to judge or condemn others?
  - How might your unbelieving friends respond if they ALSO heard 3:17?
  - why do Christians use the term "saved"?
  - what might your life look like if you had never experienced God or put your faith in Jesus? And if you haven't already decided to follow Jesus, how might your life change if you were "born again"?
- \* why do you think Nicodemus waited until it was dark to talk to Jesus?
  - verses 19-21 talk about light and darkness. what do these verses say about how our actions + attitudes impact our relationship with God?
  - what are some ways that you are living out your faith that could draw your friends to Jesus? How are you becoming "light" and pointing the way to Him?
- \* Is there anything about what Jesus said to Nicodemus that you don't believe? Is there anything that leaves you asking questions?
- \* How do you think people who aren't Christians perceive Jesus today? Are these beliefs about Jesus valid? How do our actions as Christians impact what people believe about Jesus?
- \* Are your friends curious to know more about Jesus? How would you talk with your friends if they approached you like Nicodemus did to Jesus?
- \* what's one question about Jesus that you wouldn't know how to answer? see if your small group can help you answer it.

**MEMORIZE:** "God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17)

# 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.