

SHINE! SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK 4

NOVEMBER 20, 2011

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL DIALOGUE WITH GOD

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD BETTER, TALK TO HIM.



THE LAW & PROPHETS THE PROPHETS POINT TO JESUS

Today we're talking about a prophecy about Jesus in Isaiah 52 and 53. Here we see that Jesus was a suffering servant for the people of God. By reading and understanding what God told the world about Jesus hundreds of years before he ever came to earth, we can have a greater perspective and insight into who Jesus is.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT...

- * THE MESSIAH WOULDN'T BE BORN INTO FAME.
 - Isaiah 53:2 said there wouldn't be anything "beautiful or majestic" about Jesus' appearance, and "nothing to attract us to him." Based on what you know, does this sound like Jesus' birth and life?
 - why did God want the Messiah to be born into an "average" family?
 - How might the New Testament have been different if Jesus had been born into a wealthy or powerful family?
- * THE MESSIAH WOULD TAKE THE PUNISHMENT FOR OUR SIN.
 - would you ever willingly take a friend's punishment for them?
 - why did Jesus need to take our punishment? couldn't we have done something to earn forgiveness instead?
 - Look at Isaiah 53:4-6. why did Jesus pay for sins he didn't commit?
 - How would our lives be different if Jesus hadn't paid for our sins?
- * THE MESSIAH WOULDN'T BE DEFENDED.
 - How would Jesus' story have been different if someone influential had stopped his crucifixion?
- * LIVING IT OUT
 - Have you ever read any of the old Testament prophecies about the Messiah? If you have, or if today was the first time you've heard about them, what predictions did you find most interesting about who the Messiah would be?
 - How might these prophecies about Jesus being the Messiah strengthen your belief in Him?
 - How can these prophecies help you share your faith with others?
 - when you think about your own sin, do you think you sin more or less than most people your age? or do you think you're about average? How does this affect the way you view God and His gift of salvation?
 - In what ways can you show your thankfulness that Jesus suffered the consequences for your mistakes (or sin)?

MEMORIZE: See, my servant will prosper; he will be highly exalted (Isaiah 52:13).

NOVEMBER'S FAITH SKILL

#3 DIALOGUE WITH GOD

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD BETTER,
TALK TO 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 WRITE DOWN AND SWAP YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS

It's so important for followers of Jesus to pray for each other! As a small group, God has brought all of you together to encourage, help, and challenge each other - that's what healthy community is all about. And one of the best ways that we can be there for each other and make our relationships grow stronger is to pray for each other. So this month, come up with a plan to pray for each other!

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: we've got blank Prayer Request cards at the Small Group supply station and suggestions on how to use them with your group.

#2 LEARN HOW TO PRAY FROM JESUS HIMSELF

What do your prayers usually sound like? Did you ever stop to think that maybe God meant prayer to be more than just us listing off all of the things that we want God to do for us? Well, prayer is so much more than that! Take a look at what Jesus said when His followers asked Him, "How should we pray?" It will forever change the way that you talk to God!

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: Pick up a guide to helping your students digest this passage, and spend a week (or a few) discussing it together. They're at the Small Group supply station!

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

The Bible has a lot to say about prayer - that's because it's so important. After all, we can't get to know God if we never spend any time talking with Him! Check out this 3-week quiet time plan about talking with God and hearing back from Him. You can read through it on your own, or do it with your small group.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: This reading plan is at the Small Group supply station, and is also accessible on youversion.com or on the "Bible" mobile phone app.