

SHINE! SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK 1

NOVEMBER 27, 2011

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL
DIALOGUE WITH GOD

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



SEEDS: PRAY. GROW. CHANGE.

Imagine what could happen if your school, or EVERY school, was being prayed for every single day. Think about the change that we would see and the things that we'd see God do! Well, we think it's possible. Today we'll be talking about something called Seed Groups - student-led school prayer groups. You'll get a glimpse today at what God can do through prayer and how you can be a part of it!

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT...

- * What do you want to see God do in your school? Dream big.
 - what are some things that are happening in your school that aren't in line with what God desires? (violence, bullying, gossip, broken homes, alcohol, drugs, poverty, a poor representation of Jesus, etc.)
 - what kinds of things do you or your friends struggle with most at school? At home? In their friendships? In their private lives?
 - Do you believe that God WANTS to heal those things in your school and in people's lives?
 - Do you believe that He CAN?
- * READ COLOSSIANS 4:2-5 TOGETHER. Here, Paul tells us some things that we should pray for. He also says to "make the most of every opportunity."
 - what does this teach us about the relationship between prayer and taking action?
 - what are some examples of times when the only thing we can do is ask and trust God to act on our behalf?
 - what are some examples of times when God might call us to add action to our prayers?
 - what kind of action might you and other believers need to take to see your school and the people in it be transformed by God?
 - Remember that prayer is about talking to God AND listening to Him. when you're asking God to move and transform your school, why is it so important to listen for His voice and look for His leading?
- * GETTING INVOLVED AT YOUR SCHOOL.
 - Are you catching the vision that Cory and Kenny cast today about praying for your school? Do you see the importance and the possibilities of what God could do and the change He could make?
 - would you be interested in starting or being in a Seed Group?
 - If not, why? what's holding you back?

MEMORIZE: Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land (11 Chronicles 7:14)

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 3 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.