

SHINE! SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK 2

OCTOBER 23, 2011

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL PERSONALIZE SCRIPTURE

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD BETTER, MEMORIZE AND APPLY HIS WORD.



WHO ARE YOU? PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY

You probably know the story of David and Goliath – David is the underdog, Goliath is the undefeatable giant, and David scores a victory against impossible odds. As followers of Jesus, we can learn from David's story that our own lives and identity are under attack, and to be victorious, we need to see ourselves like God does – Christ in us!

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT...

* DAVID WAS GOD'S MAN. READ 1 SAMUEL 17:12-51 TOGETHER.

- David's older brothers saw Samuel anoint David. If you have younger siblings, do you ever find yourself discouraging them from who God has called them to be? Why do you think we do that?
- READ SAMUEL 13:14. How do you think Saul felt when he learned that God had chosen someone else to be king? How might it have affected his judgment and decision-making as the current king?
- Has anyone ever discouraged or stopped you from developing your God-given identity by saying you were "only" something? How did it make you feel and how did you respond?

* DAVID KNEW GOD WAS ON HIS SIDE.

- When someone says "Tell me about yourself," what are the first things you usually say? Why do you choose those details to share?
- Why was David so confident he could take on Goliath?
- Have you ever felt like David, willing to step into battle or put your faith into action? Have you ever felt like the soldiers who were afraid to engage Goliath? What was different about you in both of those situations?

* BRINGING IT HOME.

- What limitations do some adults place on guys and girls your age, who want to do big things for God? Why do you think this happens and what should we do about it?
- Since last week, do you have a better understanding of your identity in Christ? Talk about the clarity or confusion you now have.
- What kinds of situations, people, or moments cause you to doubt your identity as a child of God? How can you fight against that?
- Who in your life is helping you strengthen your identity in Christ?
- If you could do something big for God right now, what would you do and why? What's holding you back from doing it?

MEMORIZE: "...the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us." (1 Samuel 17:47).

OCTOBER'S FAITH SKILL

#2 PERSONALIZE SCRIPTURE

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD BETTER,
MEMORIZE AND APPLY HIS WORD.

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 CHOOSE A VERSE THAT IS MEANINGFUL TO YOU AND MEMORIZE IT

In the Bible, God encourages us over and over again to hide His word in our hearts and to remember what He's said. Memorizing God's word is important – not because it's a religious ritual that we're supposed to follow, but because memorizing important verses gives us instant access to God's truth, no matter where we are or what we're doing. So this month, identify a passage of Scripture that is meaningful to you, that you want to remember, or that God has used to speak to you, and spend the next few weeks memorizing it with your small group, and sharing why you chose your verse.
SMALL GROUP LEADERS: we've got some blank cards, markers, and an activity guide for you at the Theater counter.

#2 READ AND TALK ABOUT JAMES 1:2-25 TOGETHER

In this chunk of Scripture, James gives us a great visual and reminder about the importance of not only **READING** the Bible, but **LIVING** it out. Spend some time talking through this passage with your small group and then ask yourself how you can become a better "doer" of the word.
SMALL GROUP LEADERS: Don't forget to pick up an activity guide – we put together some discussion questions and a how-to for you.

#3 USE A CALENDAR TO KEEP TRACK OF TIME SPENT IN GOD'S WORD

Keep using those calendars from last month! You can't personalize Scripture if you're not spending consistent time in God's word.
SMALL GROUP LEADERS: Calendars are available on the Theater counter through August. Give your students the entire 12-month package and encourage them to keep it in their binders.