

SHINE! SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK 1

OCTOBER 30, 2011

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL PERSONALIZE SCRIPTURE

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



THE LAW & PROPHETS THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

The 10 Commandments were given to the Israelites after their exodus from Egypt. These commands are meant to protect us and help us make wise decisions, and they're definitely not there to keep us from experiencing an enjoyable life! Today we'll talk about why the Old Testament law exists, and how it's still relevant today.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT...

- ✱ THE LAW IS A REMINDER TO BE IN AWE OF GOD.
 - what is the most awe-inspiring thing you've ever seen or witnessed?
 - what are some of the most awesome things God has done in your life or the life of someone you know?
 - Before God gave the Ten Commandments, he said "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery." why would God choose those particular words to say?
- ✱ THE LAW IS A REMINDER TO MAKE GOD TOP PRIORITY IN OUR LIVES.
 - How would someone know that God is (or isn't) your "top priority"?
 - why do other things tend to push our relationships with God out of the "top priority" spot in our lives?
 - There are some people who do make God their top priority. what makes these people different from those who don't prioritize God?
 - we don't see people worshiping many golden statues these days. But what are some things that people do worship instead of God?
- ✱ THE LAW IS A REMINDER TO TREAT OTHERS WITH LOVE AND RESPECT.
 - More than half of the 10 Commandments are about the way we treat others. why are our relationships with others so important to God?
 - when do you find it most difficult to love and respect others?
- ✱ THE LAW IS A REMINDER TO KEEP MOTIVES PURE.
 - when you look at other people's stuff and wish it was yours, what is your underlying motivation? what's going on inside of you?
 - what are some practical ways you can avoid the trap of "coveting"?
- ✱ LIVING IT OUT
 - READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31. what does it mean to do something "for the glory of God"? what are some ways you can do that this week?
 - Read the 10 Commandments together. which one(s) do you have the toughest time obeying and why? How can our small group help each other grow in this area?

MEMORIZE: "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. You must not have any other god but me" (Exodus 20:2-3).

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 1:22-25 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.