



Devotional
15 SHINE
KRYSTAL MEYERS

1 Start Up

To begin your meeting, play a game of "Sardines." If you're not familiar with the game, one person hides and the other students have to find them. But as each person finds the hider, they must join him or her in their hiding place. This works best in a large area with lots of rooms and areas to hide (you can even play outside if you have the location for it). The last person to find where the group is hiding is the new "it." For a twist, have one or two of your adult leaders try to find "it's" hiding place. If the adults can find it before the students, call the game and restart. If you have a competitive group (and most are), the students will quickly learn to keep their hiding places well-hidden from the adults!

2 Get Focused

After your activity, have everyone gather in a large group and describe how they felt during the activity. Was it easier to find the hiding spot when its location was secret or when they knew where it was? Were they

frustrated when they couldn't find it? Would it have been helpful to have an invitation and directions? As you transition from your discussion time to your devotion, encourage students to understand that while many don't mean to be exclusive with their faith, they often are. But if they are conscious about how they can reach out to others, their actions might be very different. Share the following points with your group, adding your own illustrations and anecdotes to make this devotion personal to them.

Philippians 3:10-14 (The Message//Remix)

"I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience his resurrection power, be a partner in his suffering, and go all the way with him to death itself. If there was any way to get in on the resurrection from the dead, I wanted to do it. I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back."

- 1) When we reach out to others, we don't have to "have it all together." Just as Paul says in the passage, God uses us wherever we are. He has a history of doing that. Think about people like Abraham, Moses, David, Paul, the Disciples, Samson and more...
- 2) When we reach out to others, we can rely on what Christ has ALREADY done for us. We have access to that same resurrection Paul desired when we come to know Christ personally. When we know Him, we no longer have to concern ourselves with performing from our own strengths and talents.
- 3) When we reach out to others, we must FIRST reach out to Christ. We cannot be successful in helping others come to know Christ on our own. We must be dependent on Him to lead us to the people who are ready at the right time.
- 4) When we reach out to others, we invite them to Christ...nothing more, nothing less. As Paul says, God is beckoning us to come to Him and that invitation is open to everyone. That invitation is to know Christ and fully trust Him.

3 Wind Down

As you conclude, ask your students to write the name of someone they feel compelled to share their faith with. Challenge them over the next 30 days to pray for that person and seek an opportunity to begin a conversation with them about what God has done in his or her own life. Remind them that God is not hiding from people; rather, He is calling out for them to know Him. Encourage them to be a part of inviting others to meet Him.