



SHINE

Sharing the Light of the World

LEADER'S GUIDE



...Shine like Stars in the Universe

AS YOU HOLD OUT THE WORD OF LIFE.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A WORD TO LEADERS.....	3
FACING OUR FEARS	7
FINDING OUR MOTIVATION.....	15
MASTERING OUR MESSAGE.....	27
SHARING OUR STORY.....	35
ENGAGING OUR CIRCLE.....	42
CONTINUING OUR CONVERSATION.....	50

© 2016, 2019 Dare 2 Share Ministries, Inc.

All rights reserved. Purchasers are granted permission to make up to 10 copies of this Leader's Guide and the *Shine* VIDEOS for use in their own youth ministry. The companion *Shine* Student Handouts may be copied for use in your own ministry. Not for resale.

A D2S Publishing resource
Dare 2 Share
PO Box 745323
Arvada, CO 80006
www.dare2share.org

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ Scripture quotations taken from The Message are so noted. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.

A WORD TO YOUTH LEADERS

Jesus has invited **ALL** His followers to join Him in the most important job on the planet—bringing His light and hope to our world.

There's **nothing** more exciting and rewarding in youth ministry than seeing students reaching students with the hope of Jesus! And as a youth leader, you have the exciting privilege and awesome responsibility of helping your students learn how to share Jesus' light and life with everyone around them.

Yet many of us are at a loss when it comes to knowing how to share our faith in a clear and compelling way, so we struggle with helping our students do it. *Shine... Sharing the Light of the World* is designed to clear the path and light the way!

Of course, learning how to relationally share the message of the gospel effectively is a mysterious, Holy Spirit-inspired mix of prayer, God-infused spiritual power, practical skills and relational sensitivity. It is not a simple three-step formula or a canned presentation—it is a conversation about Jesus, or in many cases, a series of ongoing conversations. Yet there are some very practical skills that your students need if they are going to feel comfortable and confident stepping out and navigating a gospel conversation with their friends from “takeoff to touchdown.”

And that's exactly what *Shine* is designed to provide. It will help you and your students...

- ...face your fears
- ...find your motivation
- ...master your message
- ...share your story
- ...engage your circle and
- ...continue your conversations.

My prayer is that *Shine* will help your group become an exciting, growing, dynamic Gospel Advancing Youth Ministry where every student is a vibrant, growing follower of Jesus who is motivated and mobilized to make disciples who make disciples everywhere they go.

Your Christian students going about their daily lives are themselves the best possible means of reaching this generation with the hope of Christ. Done well, nothing can be more organic, authentic, impacting and viral than friend-to-friend sharing. Check out the Apostle Paul's perspective on this:

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts (2 Corinthians 3:2-3).

Your students are a letter from Christ, known and read by everybody. And when you inspire and equip them to share the gospel with their friends, they become walking, talking, loving, relational, personal ambassadors for Jesus everywhere they go!

May your students let the light of Jesus shine through them as they hold out the word of life!

Greg Stier
CEO, Dare 2 Share

HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

This Leader's Guide, your *Shine* videos and weekly student handouts are designed to drive your group toward authentic discussion, walk you through Scripture and challenge and equip your students to share the gospel with friends who need Jesus. This six-week curriculum is suitable for mid-week youth group meetings, Sunday morning curriculum, small group meetings or retreat settings. It is designed for a 60- to 75-minute timeslot, but easily expands if time allows. The longer your timeslot, the more deeply your students will be able to engage with the content.

Each week's lesson opens with a fun group activity before guiding you through the lesson's video content, discussion questions and a variety of student activities laid out in the weekly *Shine* student handouts.

To help you customize the materials to best fit your group, you'll find both a PDF and an editable Word format version of this Leader's Guide in your download folder. For your convenience, you have permission to make up to ten copies of the *Shine* videos and Leader's Guide for use within your church. The companion student handouts may be reproduced in the quantity you need for student use within your own church.

PREPARING TO LAUNCH THE SERIES

Pray! The spiritual prep work of prayer is a critical starting point as you prepare to launch *Shine*. You would be wise to recruit a team of prayer warriors and parents to pray, pray, pray. When you set out to motivate and equip your students to share the gospel with their friends, you are invading the enemy's turf. *Shine* includes several practical applications that challenge your students to share the light of Jesus with others. As they step out and talk to their friends about Him, they will need "air support." So start praying early for your students' gospel-sharing efforts, keep praying throughout the series and don't stop praying after it wraps up. If you continue to prioritize faith-sharing in your youth group, your students will be sharing their faith long after your six-week *Shine* series is over.

Preview. Take an advance look at the first session or two of the videos and curriculum to get a feel for the material. Previewing the material will allow you to effectively and enthusiastically describe the series to your students, parents and adult leaders.

Plan. Take the following steps:

- Determine how many copies of the weekly handouts you'll need for your group and print them up. The student handouts are an integral part of each week's lesson, so you'll need a copy for each student.
- Organize a specific plan for integrating any new believers into the group, including a follow up and discipleship strategy. For help with this, check out Dare 2 Share [Now Grow!](#) discipling curriculum, or go to www.somethingamazing.net/moving-forward for a free, engaging, new believer follow up video series.
- It's critical that you and your other adult leaders model a lifestyle that advances the gospel yourselves. You don't have to be great at it, but you do have to be working on it right alongside your students. Be prepared to do each week's "Share" assignment yourself and get your other adult leaders onboard, as well. Come to youth group each week ready to share with the group your own experiences doing the weekly challenges.

PREPARING EACH WEEK'S LESSON

As you prepare for each week's lesson, you will want to grab your Leader's Guide and a copy of the student handout. As you read through the Leader's Guide, note that the words in bold provide a sample script to help you, while the non-bolded words provide logistical directions or answer cues for you.

LESSON COMPONENTS

The structure for each Leader's Guide lesson is built around the following grid:

- **SCOPE** offers a big picture overview, social media texts and a list of supplies
- **SMILE** launches your gathering with a fun opening activity
- **SHOW** features the video episode and some initial discussion questions about it
- **SEARCH** unpacks the key Bible passage and training content
- **SHAPE** drives the content deeper so it impacts students' attitudes and motivations
- **SHINE** provides practical faith-sharing insights, tools or practice
- **SHARE** challenges students with a specific faith-sharing application for the coming week

GIVE THE GOSPEL: Each lesson includes a segue to a clear gospel presentation. Don't assume that all your students have previously understood or embraced the message of the gospel. And since some of the "Share" assignments include encouragements to invite friends to youth group, it's doubly important that you provide a clear gospel presentation and invitation to respond. Be sure to follow up with those who make a decision to trust in Christ. Get them grounded and growing in their new faith.

SHARE STORIES: There's nothing like hearing students share evangelistic stories in youth group that will motivate other students to join in. Storytelling infuses evangelism into the DNA of a youth ministry culture. Your youth ministry can become a campfire of sorts where students share how the Holy Spirit is using them to reach out to their peers with the message of gospel. So time for sharing about last week's faith-sharing assignment is built into each lesson. Encourage your students to share the good, bad and ugly. They can learn from each other's successes AND failures. After each student shares, stop and pray for them and for the individual they tried to share the gospel with. After *Shine* is over, continue this storytelling time as part of your weekly gathering. It will help keep faith-sharing front and center in your students' hearts.

PARENT EMAILS: We strongly encourage involving parents in the *Shine* series by using the weekly email updates, which summarize the series and provide parent/student discussion questions. This is a great vehicle for encouraging your Christian parents to be praying for their student's faith-sharing efforts. You can find these in the Parent Emails folder for your download. Simply cut and paste them into your email and feel free to customize them for your group. However, be sensitive and use your own discretion when it comes to sending these emails to parents who are not believers in Jesus.

CUSTOMIZING YOUR LESSONS

You understand your group better than anyone, and know what will (and won't) work. As you prepare each lesson, consider what your students are like, and how the time can be most

meaningful for everyone. Treat this Leader's Guide as a springboard to a more tailored experience. Be flexible and willing to adjust to whatever's going on and recognize that if your discussion times go deep, it is highly likely you will not have time to cover all the questions provided. **However, don't shy away from the weekly challenges that nudge your students out of their comfort zone.** They are an essential part of building your students' confidence and competence for navigating a gospel conversation.

If your group is large, consider dividing your students into smaller groups of 7-8 for the discussion sections of the lesson. You can either have an adult volunteer sit with each group, or you can walk among the groups as the discussions flow, asking each question loudly enough for everyone to hear.

Follow the Holy Spirit's leading throughout, and be sensitive to how vastly different students are—mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Some may have been Christians most of their lives, others may have barely heard of Jesus, and many may be somewhere in between.

If your discussion times go well, there may be more discussion questions in these lessons than your group has time for, so feel free to pick and choose what questions to cut. If your group is hesitant to participate in the discussion time, ask your questions and wait patiently for your students to engage. Waiting creates tension, and tension is a tool for change.

USING THE GRAPHICS IN YOUR PRESENTATION SLIDES FOLDER

Check out this folder in your download. You'll find customizable presentation slides, as well as a set of GOSPEL acrostic training slides. If you feel like your students would benefit from further GOSPEL acrostic training, these GOSPEL slides will assist you toward that end.

FEARS

SCOPE

BIG IDEA

Most all of us have fears when it comes to sharing our faith. But as we depend on the Holy Spirit, pray and prepare, God will help us overcome our fears and will use us to share His light and life with our friends.

KEY SCRIPTURE

1 PETER 2:9 “...for you are...God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.”

2 CORINTHIANS 4:6-7 For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Deliver the following messages to your students via group text, Facebook or Twitter (#shine).

- **Pre-lesson:** Don’t miss the exciting, gross, live Cricket Spit at youth group this week!
- **Post-lesson:** Remember: Purposefully reach out to someone this week and show them the “goodness of God.”

PARENT EMAIL

Go to the Parent Emails folder and copy, paste, customize and send this week’s email to your students’ parents.

SUPPLIES

- Video projection equipment
- Shine video – Episode 1 Facing Our Fears
- Episode 1 Student Handouts – one for each student
- Pens/pencils
- Live crickets from a pet store in a see-through container
- Starting line marker (i.e. string, masking tape)
- Prize for winner
- OPTIONAL: 3 small containers of mouthwash
- OPTIONAL: Reflective instrumental music and audio projection equipment

SMILE

CRICKET SPIT

The object of this up front competitive activity is to see who can spit a live cricket the farthest. If possible, do this activity outside so the crickets can be easily released afterward. Before your meeting buy a small number of live crickets. Mark out a starting line.

Briefly explain the activity and then ask for three brave student volunteers. It's best to let your students know what they are signing up for in advance of your request for volunteers. It may also be helpful to privately recruit at least one of your most fearless, outgoing students prior to your group meeting so they can lead the way in volunteering and provide some guaranteed enthusiastic buy-in when you explain the game and ask for volunteers.

One by one, each contestant should reach into the container of crickets, select a live cricket, pop it into their mouth and spit it as far as they can from where they are standing at the starting line. After each contestant competes, mark their cricket's landing spot with a large, easily visible object like a shoe. Award the longest spitter a prize (chocolate is good). OPTIONAL: Depending on your group's tolerance for grossness, you may also want to pass out mouthwash to each of the contestants.

TRANSITION

Settle your students and open in prayer. Say something like:

Father God, thanks for the fun we can have together. And thanks for the courage You give us to do things that fall outside our comfort zone. Please be with us now as we spend this coming time learning and growing together as we unpack something that often feels outside our "spiritual comfort zone"—sharing our faith with those who don't know You personally. Help us get a glimpse of what it looks like to shine for You and to share the hope we have in You with those around us. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

EXPLAIN

Most of us here probably consider putting live crickets in our mouth outside our comfort zone. Stepping up to things that make us uncomfortable, or maybe even point-blank frighten us, can be challenging.

And for many of us here, sharing the message of the gospel with our friends who don't know Jesus personally falls outside our current comfort zone, as well. Yet sharing our faith with others is something Jesus has called each and every one of us to do. So it's important that we step up to the call and learn how to do it in an engaging, relational way that will actually help people get to know the real, authentic Jesus.

This is what the new series we're launching into this week called *Shine* is designed to do—help us face down our faith-sharing fears and equip us to confidently share Jesus with others!

So let's jump in and watch the first video in this series about "Facing Our Fears" and see what you think.

SHOW

PLAY *Shine* Episode 1 "Facing Our Fears."

EXPLAIN

While we're passing out the *Shine* handouts that go with this episode and pens or pencils for those who need them, let me ask you a couple quick questions.

ASK

- How many of you have ever been on a climbing wall?
- Let's have a show of hands...was it scary or fun?
- Has anyone ever climbed a sheer rock face out in the real world like this group we just watched? If so, do you remember how you felt right before you did it? Were you mostly scared or mostly excited?

EXPLAIN

There on your handout you'll see a candid snapshot taken right before the cast was about to climb the sheer rock cliff. The photo captures some of their raw, unguarded emotions. Above each cast member, you'll find their names and a list of emotions. Take a minute and label the emotion you think you see on each cast members' face. Then circle the emotion that best describes how you feel about the prospect of sharing your faith with your friends.

Allow students a minute for this activity.

ASK

- Which of these students do you think looks the most afraid in this photo?
- Based on the video footage we just watched, who in this group actually found the climbing activity the most frightening?
- Does our anxiety in advance of something necessarily match up with the level of fear we actually experience when we step out and try to do something we've been afraid of? [i.e., "That wasn't as bad as I expected it to be."]
- Most all of us can identify with the emotion of fear. What are some examples of things you are afraid of?

EXPLAIN

We all have fears—heights, spiders, clowns, whatever. And like the cast talked about, many of us also harbor some fears related to sharing our faith. Sometimes we're fearful about our loved ones dying without having put their trust in Jesus, and sometimes we're fearful about actually trying to share our faith with them. We get hit up by fear from both sides—both from doing nothing AND from trying to do something. Let's unpack this a little more.

ASK

- Would any of you be willing to share which emotion you feel when you think about trying to share your faith with your friends?
- What are some of the reasons why we're afraid to share our faith?
- What's your own biggest fear when it comes to sharing your faith?
- What do you think is the hardest part about sharing the gospel with others? Bringing it up? Explaining it clearly? Dealing with people's objections? Or actually inviting someone to make a decision to put their trust in Jesus on the spot?

SEARCH

EXPLAIN

Across these next few weeks, we're going to "climb the mountain" of sharing our faith. Together we're going to explore what it looks like to shine for Jesus and share His light and life with those around us.

So let's take a look at a couple Bible verses to see what they have to say to us about being light in the darkness. Please turn to the next page of your handout. Could I please have a volunteer read the first verse found there aloud?

1 PETER 2:9: *...for you are ...God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.*

ASK

- If you're a follower of Jesus, who do you belong to?
- How does being "*God's very own possession*" make you feel? Confined, safe, valuable, used, secure, or something else?
- What does this verse say about what you "can" do as a result of your belonging to God?
- Why do you think it says "can," rather than "should" or "will" or "might"?
- What are some examples of what it might look like to "*show others the goodness of God*"?
- Now let's look at the next verse on your page. This is the verse Greg talked about in the video. He pointed out that God said "*Let there be light twice.*" Once at creation and once at the point we put our trust in Jesus. Can I please have a volunteer read the 2 Corinthians passage aloud?

2 CORINTHIANS 4:6-7: *For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.*

ASK

- What is this “great treasure” the verse refers to?
- In what ways is having a personal relationship with Jesus like having a light switched on in the darkness?
- What are some examples of the ways God’s light can shine through us to others?
- Why is it okay to feel “fragile,” fearful and inadequate when it comes to sharing Jesus’ message with others?
- Where does our power to share this “great treasure” come from?

SHAPE

EXPLAIN

Part of facing down your faith-sharing fears is identifying what they actually are for you personally. So right now, I want you to take a couple minutes and have a candid conversation with God in the form of a written prayer there in your handout about your own personal faith-sharing fears.

Please be honest—God already knows your heart—but there’s something powerful and healthy about putting your thoughts and fears down on paper and giving them to Him. Remember that even the great apostle Peter was so scared that he denied Christ three times. (Check out Mark 14:66-72 if you want the whole story.) In fact, all of the members of Jesus’ inner circle of disciples were scared and cowering behind closed doors at one point or another. It was only after God sent the Holy Spirit to them that they were able to get a grip, do a 180° and stand up boldly to be counted for Jesus.

That means if you have real fears about sticking your neck out for Jesus and His message, you’re in good company. But it also means you’re going to need God’s strength and power in order to face down your fears and actually begin to share your faith. How do we tap into God’s strength and power? It all starts with prayer.

The bottom line is that God stands ready to help you climb this faith-sharing mountain if you just ask. So write out your prayer—based not on where you think you *should be* at with all this, but based on where you *are* at right now.

You may want to play some reflective instrumental background music during this time. Allow students three or four minutes for this activity, then gather their attention back up front.