



SHINE

Sharing the Light of the World

LEADERS GUIDE

 dare 2 share

“SHINE LIKE STARS IN THE UNIVERSE

AS YOU HOLD OUT THE WORD OF LIFE”

Philippians 2:15-16

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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 other students with the hope of Jesus! And as a youth leader, you have the thrilling privilege and awesome responsibility of helping your students learn how to share Jesus's 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 share the Gospel message relationally and effectively is a mysterious, Holy Spirit-inspired mix of prayer, spiritual power, practical skills, and relational sensitivity. It's not a simple, three-step formula or a canned presentation—it's a conversation about Jesus, or in many cases, a series of conversations. Yet there are some very practical skills your students need if they're 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* provides. It will help you and your students:

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

My prayer is that *Shine* will help your group become an exciting, growing, dynamic Gospel Advancing youth ministry, in which every student is a vibrant, growing follower of Jesus who is 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, powerful, 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
Founder, Dare 2 Share

HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

This leaders guide, the *Shine* videos, and the weekly student handouts are designed to walk your group through Scripture, inspire authentic discussion, and challenge and equip your students to share the Gospel with friends who need Jesus. This six-week curriculum is suitable for midweek youth group meetings, Sunday morning curriculum, small group meetings, or retreat settings. It's designed for a 60- to 75-minute time slot, but it easily expands if time allows. The longer your time slot, 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 video content, discussion questions, and a variety of student activities that are 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 leaders guide in your download folder. For your convenience, you have permission to make copies of the *Shine* videos and leaders 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're 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; then 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's [*Now Grow!*](#) discipling curriculum, available for free at dare2share.org.
- It's critical that you and your other adult leaders model a lifestyle that advances the Gospel. 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 of doing the weekly challenges.



PREPARING EACH WEEK'S LESSON

As you prepare for each week's lesson, you'll want to grab your leaders guide and a copy of the student handout. As you read through the leaders guide, note that the words in bold provide a sample script you can use, while the nonbolded words provide logistical directions or answer cues for you.

LESSON COMPONENTS

The structure for each 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 to impact 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 because 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 decide to trust in Christ. Get them grounded and growing in their new faith.

SHARE STORIES: Storytelling infuses evangelism into the DNA of a youth ministry culture. Having students share stories in youth group of their Gospel conversations can powerfully motivate other students to share the Gospel too, so each lesson includes time for teens to tell about last week's faith-sharing assignment. 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 students' faith-sharing efforts. You can find these in the Parent Emails folder for your download. Simply cut and paste them into your email, and then customize them for your group, if you'd like. 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 leaders guide as a springboard to a more tailored experience. Be flexible and willing to adjust to whatever's going on, recognizing that if your discussion times go deep, it's likely you won't 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're an essential part of building your students' confidence and competence for navigating Gospel conversations.

If your group is large, consider dividing your students into smaller groups of seven or eight 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 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 G.O.S.P.E.L.-acrostic training slides you can use to further equip your students.



FEARS

SCOPE

BIG IDEA

Most of us have fears about 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 SCRIPTURES

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 or social media (#shine).

- **Pre-lesson:** Don’t miss the exciting and slightly disturbing 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 to 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, such as string or masking tape
- Prize for winner
- OPTIONAL: three 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 few live crickets. Mark out a starting line.

Briefly explain the activity, and then ask for three student volunteers. It's best to let your students know what they are signing up for before you make your request. 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, such as some candy. **OPTIONAL:** 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 help us now 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's 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 totally 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 His followers to do. So it's important to 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 this video about facing our fears.

“...Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.”

Philippians 2:15b-16 (NIV, 1984)

Dear parents,

I am so excited that our youth group is launching into a new six-week video series called *Shine: Sharing the Light of the World!*

In the busyness of life—school, fun, friends, sports, and more—our students sometimes lose sight of the truth that they have the message of hope and life that others urgently need. Yet in reality, **sharing Jesus’s message with others is the most impactful thing they will ever do with their lives.** Because the Gospel can change someone’s life at the deepest level—both now and for all eternity. And nothing your teenager could ever offer others could be more powerful and permanent than that!

Sharing the Gospel message effectively and relationally is a mysterious mix of prayer, God-infused spiritual power, practical skills, and relational sensitivity. It’s not a simple, three-step formula or a canned presentation—it’s a conversation about Jesus, or in many cases, a series of ongoing conversations. **Yet there are some very practical skills your teenager needs if he or she is going to confidently step out and share the Gospel with friends.** Our *Shine* series is designed to provide your student with those skills. Together, we’ll be learning how to navigate a Gospel conversation from “takeoff to touchdown.”

What can you do to help your teenager get the most out of this series?

- **Pray! Pray! Pray!** *Shine* includes several practical applications that will challenge our students to share the light of Jesus with others. Please pray for our students as they share their faith with their friends!
- **Engage in Conversations.** This week’s episode is called *Facing Our Fears*. We’ll look at 1 Peter 2:9 and 2 Corinthians 4:6-7, and talk about why sharing our faith with our friends can sometimes feel intimidating. As you talk with your teenager this week consider asking them:
 - What’s your own biggest fear when it comes to sharing your faith?
 - How does God help us overcome our fear?
 - How can I pray for you?

Please watch for email updates from me during this six-week series. I’ll be providing you with several quick overviews of what we’re discussing in group. I encourage you to connect with your student about what he or she is learning each week.

May we all let the light of Jesus shine through us as we hold out the word of life to others!

This preview includes a select number of pages from this resource.

If you like what you see, download the entire resource today!

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