

GOD KNOWS what it's like

As much as your leaders love you, many didn't grow up in the hood and don't have a clue with that you deal with on a daily basis. They don't know what it's like to have a messed up home or how hard it is to deal with crackheads, gangbangers, and gunfire. *But God does know what it like.* God knows your pain, your secrets, your fears and as well as all of your dreams. And with His help, surviving those very things can turn you into a star.

WORD! Search me God and KNOW my heart and test me, KNOW my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23

GET REAL WITH IT

What's the toughest thing you're dealing with this week?

NOW DEAL WITH IT

How can a tight relationship with Christ help you get through it?

WHAD'YA FEEL

Write down three things about yourself that nobody knows but you.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

OUCH! YOU HIT A NERVE

Sometimes, we have secrets NOT because of something we've done, but because of something that was done to us. Remember that if you're a victim of someone else's sin, *it was not your fault.* You did not deserve to be treated that way. Take five to pray about a time in your life where you were treated wrong.

CHALLENGE

What are challenges that your leader gave you this week?

1.

2.

How are you planning on meeting those challenges?

1.

2.

YOU THINK YOU GOT IT RAW...

Genesis is full of stories of heroes with twisted lives. Take for instance, Joseph (with the twelve brothers). His father married two sisters, his brothers wanted to kill him, and his sister Dinah was raped. Take time this week to read the stories of Jacob's children, starting around *Genesis Chapter 34.* It will give you hope that God uses people from imperfect families with all kinds of backgrounds, including YOU!

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

Use this space to write God a note about how you feel regarding one of your secrets. He can and *will* help you deal with it!



DON'T KNOW

FOCUS: True, there's a lot of stuff that goes down in the city that takes you by surprise that's not good. Many of us have lost friends to violence. Others have lost loved ones to sickness or bad accidents or just by being at the wrong place at the wrong time. Well there's one thing that will take EVERYONE by surprise and that's the return of Jesus. So remember, Jesus has a lot in common with a drive by. You never know when either is coming so you better be ready at any time.

WORD! *Therefore be on the alert, for you do not KNOW which day your Lord is coming.* MATTHEW 24:42

THREE MINUTE WARNING

Imagine if Jesus was coming back in three minutes. How would you spend that time? Would there be any things or substances that you would want to get rid of? Or, would you be calling your friends to tell them to get on their knees? Write down what you would do.

NO WARNING

The truth is, Jesus COULD be coming in the next three minutes. So ask yourself, what's keeping you from doing now the stuff you wrote down above?

WHAD'YA FEEL ABOUT IT?

Do you think it's fair that Jesus is coming without warning? Explain.

LAST CHANCE

Think of someone in your life who's past away. If you could say one more thing to them before they had died, what would that be?

LIFE'S PAINS

While Heaven is a great place, no one seems in a hurry to get there. If you have lost a friend or loved one, it's normal to be sad for a while. Take five to pray to God to help heal your pain. Then be sure to look up *Psalm 34:18*.

CHALLENGE

What two challenges did your leader give you this week?

- 1.
- 2.

Write down how you succeed at those challenges this week.

NOW KNEEL

What are two things or people you want to pray about this week?

- 1.
- 2.



