

MVL 49
Summer 2005

Artist:

4TH AVENUE JONES
HIPROCKSOUL.COM

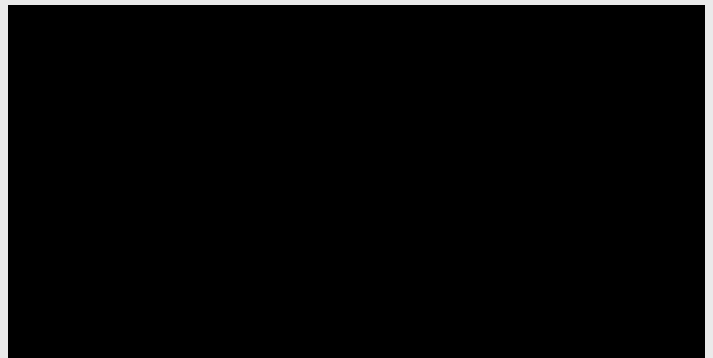
Album Title & Record Company:

STEREO: THE EVOLUTION
OF HIPROCKSOUL
GOTEE RECORDS

Song Title:

STEREO

Study by:

CINDY ENGØY
YESWESERVE
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA
CCHIGIRL@CHARTER.NET

Theme

Materialism

Objective

By the end of this session, your students will have discussed and examined areas of their lives that needs to be given over to God.

Warm Up

Play this combination of “Hot Potato” and “Musical Chairs.” Have items that can be passed from student to student behind their backs. There should be one less item than there are students – everyone should have an item to pass except for one person. Have the students form a circle (more circles for larger groups) facing out. Start some music and have the students pass the items. Stop the music and whoever doesn’t have an item comes out; only they are rewarded with chips or candy. Now take one of the items away and continue the game until one person is left holding an item.

Transition

Say, “In our society you are rewarded if you hang onto the most toys, the most bling, or spend the most money. We are going to learn about the value of giving away something that means a lot to you. Just like in the game, you will be rewarded for what you don’t have, for what you are willing to give away for the Lord.”

The Video

Introduce the video by saying, “This video is about something that is really important to the main character (Ahmed) – his stereo. The stereo is something that he has had a very long time and it has a special importance to him. Maybe that sounds funny to you, but as you watch this video, think about something that is important to you, that you’ve had for a long time.” Show the video and then hand out the Student Guides. Have the kids fill in why they think the stereo is so important to Ahmed and discuss their answers. Now have them fill out the personalized section, what is important to them, what is their security blanket and why.

Transition

Discuss what they wrote. What is important to them? Why is it so important? Is it their security blanket? Is it important just because everyone else thinks it is special or important?

Bible Study

Have the students look up the Bible passages listed on their Student Guides. You can split this up into small groups and have them share their findings. Say, “You are going to be looking up different examples of someone willing or not willing to give something up. Write down what the person had, what they decided to do with it, and what were the results. Then we’ll share them as a whole group.”

- **Mark 10:17-22** (*The rich young ruler had wealth. He was not willing to give it away. He went away sad and without treasure in heaven.*)
- **John 6:8-13** (*The young boy had five small barley loaves and two small fish. He was willing to give it away. God used it and over 5,000 were fed.*)
- **1 Kings 17:7-15** (*The widow had her last oil and flour. She used it to bake Elijah some bread. God provided for the widow and her son and they never ran out of oil and flour.*)

Have more discussion on the Bible stories. Discuss how things might have been different if the rich young ruler would have decided to give it all away. What might have happened if the young boy had decided to keep his lunch to himself? If the widow had not obeyed, what might have happened to her and her son?

Wrap Up

Before closing in prayer, pass out pieces of paper. Say, “There will be a time of silent prayer when you are to ask God what you are holding onto and what you need to let go of and give to Him – maybe a possession, a relationship, a fear or worry, or a sin that no one else knows about. Write that thing on the paper, then fold the paper and place it in the basket that I will pass it around.” Put all the papers in a fireproof container and burn them. Then close in prayer.

4TH AVENUE JONES

Artist:

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HIPROCKSOUL.COM

Album Title & Record Company:

STEREO: THE EVOLUTION OF
HIPROCKSOUL
GOTEE RECORDS

Song Title:

STEREO

Theme:

MATERIALISM



The Video

Why do you think the stereo is so important to Ahmed?

What do you think it represents?

Personalize It!

What's important to you?

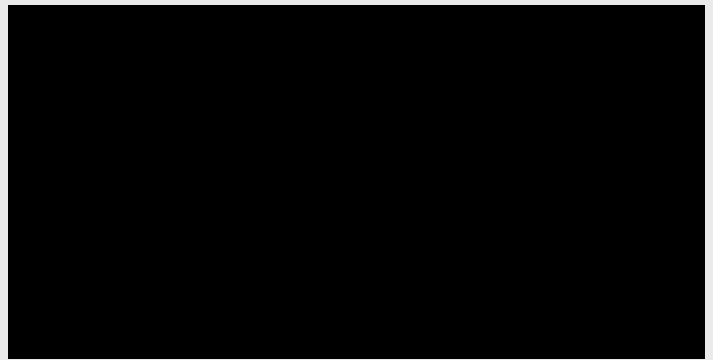
What's your security blanket?

Why?

The Scripture

	Who's involved?	What did they have?	What did they do with it?	What was the outcome?
Mark 10:17-22				
John 6:8-13				
1 Kings 17:7-15				

Artist:	Album Title & Record Company:	Song Title:	Study by:
THE CHEMISTRY THECHEMISTRYMUSIC.COM	THE CHEMISTRY RAZOR & TIE	FROM WITHIN	FRED LYNCH GODSTYLE PRODUCTIONS ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO FLYNCH@GMAIL.COM



Theme

Forgiveness

Objective

By the end of this session your students will know the forgiveness of sin and freedom from guilt. This type of grace is only received from above (God's heart); but it only becomes a reality from within (our hearts) as we trust and accept God at His word.

Warm Up

NASCAR-Balloon Relay – You'll need a bunch of balloons. Divide into two teams. Select a runner for each team. Everyone else serves as pit-stop workers and cheering squad. Load both runners with a large number of blown up balloons (about 15 balloons each). The object of the game is to race across the room and back without dropping a balloon. If a runner drops a balloon, he or she must start all over! The job of the pit-stop workers is to retrieve the balloons and get the runner back to the starting position and start all over. Whenever the runner drops a balloon, the crowd should react like it's a great crash (bring on the drama and make it loud). The point of the game is to move the group's thinking in the direction of dealing with guilt and starting over again after mistakes.

Transition

Discuss how the players messed up and had to start all over again. Compare the game with how we often see our life with God. We feel that when we've blown it, our guilt and shame keeps us from God accepting us back into His graces. However, this is just not true! That type of thinking keeps us running from God, and we must run to God when we fall; or we'll never get back up again.

The Video

Show the video "From Within" by **The Chemistry**.

Transition

After the video, ask two to three students (find students before the study for sake of time) to describe a time when they "got busted" for doing something wrong and tried to cover it up. Look for humorous stories that can help you establish the point that trying to cover up sin will never help deal with guilt.

Bible Study

Familiarize yourself with **Romans 7:21–8:2** so that you can summarize it by heart for your group. Major talking points in this passage are:

- It's a fact: when I want to do good, evil is always waiting around the corner.
- Everyone faces inner struggles of choosing between right and wrong.
- The only way to overcome the struggle is through Christ.
- If God doesn't condemn me, then I can't condemn myself.

Have the group read the following verses and explain what being forgiven by God means. Afterwards, answer the questions below each verse and discuss what accepting and walking in God's forgiveness means.

God Forgives Faithfully – **1 John 1:9**

- Have you ever felt like running from God when you sin instead of running to Him?
- Why do you think some people are afraid to talk to God about their sin?
- When you confess your sin, do you (or should you) always feel cleansed?

God Forgives Completely – **Psalms 103:12**

- Is guilt good or bad? Explain?
- Why does guilt often drive people away from God?
- If God forgets our sins and mistakes, what can we do to forget our own sins and mistakes?

God Forgives Permanently – **Isaiah 43:25**

- What is significant in the fact that an all-knowing God has decided not to remember your sins?
- What interest would God have in remembering your sins no more?
- How does this help you deal with the guilt you sometimes feel within your heart after you seek forgiveness?

Wrap Up

Say, "Sin seems to capture us at the most inopportune moments. Just when we think we are strong enough or smart enough or good enough, we slip up. We are reminded that as long as we live in this world, we have to depend upon the sacrifice of Christ to rescue us even from our own destructive desires. The Bible says in Proverbs 24:16 that 'a righteous person may repeatedly fall, but will rise up again.' The difference between a 'saint' and a 'sinner' is simply accepting Christ's power to get back up again. God can help us live a holy lifestyle, but if and when we make a mistake, we can run to Jesus because He has our back." Have a student read and summarize **1 John 2:1**. Close with prayer thanking God for His loving grace and power to live without guilt.

THE CHEMISTRY

Artist:

THE CHEMISTRY
THECHEMISTRYMUSIC.COM

Album Title & Record Company:

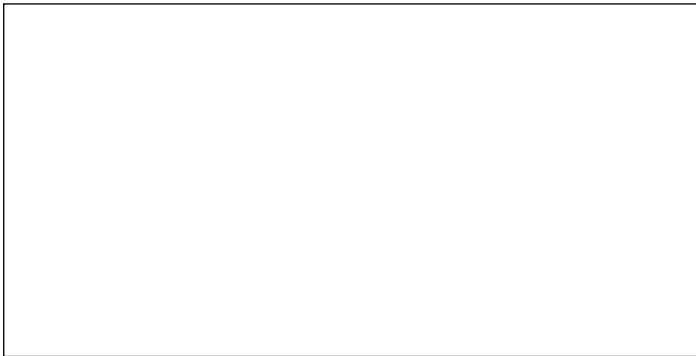
THE CHEMISTRY
RAZOR & TIE

Song Title:

FROM WITHIN

Theme:

FORGIVENESS



God Forgives _____

1 John 1:9

Have you ever felt like running from God when you sinned instead of running to Him?

God Forgives _____

Psalm 103:12

Is guilt good or bad? Explain?

God Forgives _____

Isaiah 43:25

What is significant in the fact that an all-knowing God has decided not to remember your sins?

Why do you think some people are afraid to talk to God about their sin?

Why does guilt often drive people away from God?

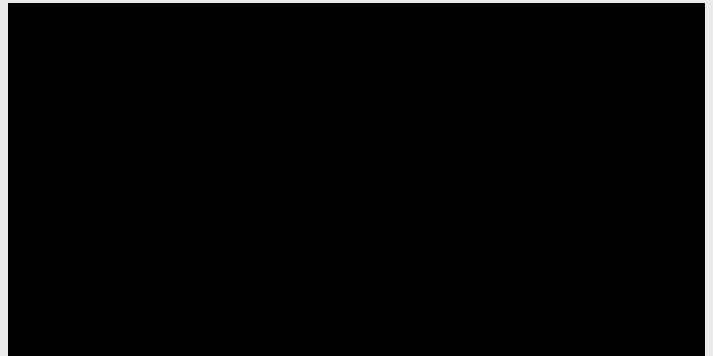
What interest would God have in remembering your sins no more?

When you confess your sin, do you (or should you) always feel cleansed?

If God forgets our sins and mistakes, what can we do to forget our own sins and mistakes?

How does this help you deal with the guilt you sometimes feel within your heart after you seek forgiveness?

Artist:	Album Title & Record Company:	Song Title:	Study by:
DISCIPLE DISCIPLEROCKS.COM	DISCIPLE SRE RECORDINGS	THE WAIT IS OVER	PAUL TURNER GARYWOOD ASSEMBLY OF GOD HUEYTOWN, ALABAMA TURNER2K@YAHOO.COM



Theme

Revival

Objective

Students will see that the Holy Spirit can bring revival everyday.

Warm Up

This improv is borrowed from "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" Since revival means bringing something dead back to life, show how hard it is to work with a dead person. Ask for four volunteers – two will be limp and pretend to be dead; the other two pick them up and make them act out an improvised scene. The two "living" people move the "dead" people's arms and legs to get them around as well as sit them down. Provide chairs and other props as the volunteers act out these scenes:

- Going in to find a seat at church
- Stopping for gas
- Attending a Bible study
- Attending a "revival" service

Transition

Use these discussion questions before showing the video:

- (To the "live" actors) What was moving the "dead" people around like? What was difficult about the task?
- (To the "dead" actors) How did being moved around and offering no assistance feel?
- Do you think this illustrates the Holy Spirit trying to be involved in our lives?
- What does being spiritually dead – or at least comatose – mean?
- What is revival? How do we know when we're having revival? How is the Holy Spirit involved in revival?

The Video

Say, "This video is about God's power being available now. Let's watch." Show the video.

Bible Study

Hand out the Student Guides and have students answer and discuss the opening questions, read each Scriptures and write out answers.

Luke 24:48, 49 – Jesus asked his disciples to wait in Jerusalem so they could be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:14 – Jesus asked his disciples to wait for power – not power for power's sake, but for the purpose of sharing the good news with boldness.

Acts 2 – There were many signs of revival. Some would say that speaking in other languages was the revival, but it was only the beginning of personal revival that led to a greater corporate revival. Some signs of revival were:

- Many people who found Christ, repented and were baptized (v. 37-41)
- Behavior and daily life practices changed and became "others-centered" (v. 42-47)

Closing

Have a time of waiting – you could have a song playing while the students pray or sit silently or read the Scriptures. Then read each characteristic of the revived in **Acts 2:41-47** and have your students think about how the Holy Spirit can work through them to see that characteristic happen in their lives.

DISCIPLE

Artist:

DISCIPLE
DISCIPLEROCKS.COM

Album Title & Record Company:

DISCIPLE
SRE RECORDINGS

Song Title:

THE WAIT IS OVER

Theme:

REVIVAL



The Wait Is Over

Waiting: What did you wait for most in...
Elementary

Luke 24:48, 49

What did Jesus ask the disciples to do?

Acts 1:1-8

Jesus told His disciples they would receive:

Acts 2

What were/are some of the "signs" of revival?

For what purpose?

Junior High

Why do you think waiting and spiritual renewal are so closely linked?

One of these "signs" of revival I'd like see in my...

Life:

High School

Until when?

What should/could we be doing while we are waiting?

Church/Youth Group:

College

While I wait for revival I will:

Artist:	Album Title & Record Company:	Song Title:	Study by:
HILLSONG UNITED HILLSONG.COM	UNITED LIVE 6 – LOOK TO YOU HILLSONG AUSTRALIA	WHAT THE WORLD WILL NEVER TAKE	DOUG RANCK FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA BARBARA SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA DRANCK@FMCSANTABARBARA.ORG



Theme

God's Sovereignty

Objective

Students will discover that in spite of the chaos, God is their salvation and He is sovereign.

Warm Up

Give your students working individually about five minutes to write on their Student Guide a list, of present day events or activities that appear to be "out of control." Come back together and share the results. Have your students describe why these events should be placed in this category. Ask:

- What are different reactions of people you know to events or activities that seem "out of control"?
- What do people try to do to "fix the problem" or resolve their feelings?

Transition

Have students find the section in their Student Guide entitled *What I Bring/What Christ Brings* and say, "To one degree or another we all have a need to be in control. The world is full of sin and chaos. Christ brings life and the reminder that in Him we can put our trust. This video by **Hillsong United** communicates the message of Christ's unshakeable presence in our lives. During the video listen closely to the words and write down what you hear them saying we bring to our lives and about what Christ brings to our lives."

The Video

Show the video. Students should record their observations on their Student Guides. Follow up the video by repeating some of the lyrics (have students assist you).

Reflection

Discuss:

- According to this song, what do we bring to life? (What I'm holding inside, hopes, desires, dreams, what I'm hoping to be)
- What does Christ bring to our lives? (He lives in us; something that can never be taken away)
- Why can't the world take this away?

Transition

Say, "It is easy to dwell on the life situations we wish were better. It is easy to feel everybody is against us as Christians and that more and more of our freedoms are being taken. While this may be true, this is as Jesus promised. This world can be unkind and unfair, but through our trust in Him it ultimately cannot steal our eternal relationship with God. **Psalm 62** speaks of this Sovereign God who is our rock and salvation. Let's turn there together."

Bible Study

Have students turn to **Psalm 62** in their Bibles. Go around the circle and have each student read a verse until the entire Psalm has been read. Ask the students to find a partner or two other people and complete the Student Guide section entitled, *In God We Put Our Trust*. Once the students have completed this section come back together and share the results.

Transition

Reflect together with these questions:

- What statement is repeated twice in this chapter?
- How would you summarize the message of this chapter in one statement?

Wrap Up

Say, "**Hillsong United** has given us a reminder, *'I've got a Savior... You're the best thing that has happened to me and the world will never take you away.'* The big question we must ask is, 'Do we really believe that?'" Ask your students to share one way the world is taking the joy away from their relationship with Christ and how you could pray for them to put their trust in the Sovereign God. Close by having group members (or you) pray for each other in response to these requests.

HILLSONG UNITED

Artist:

HILLSONG UNITED
HILLSONG.COM

Album Title & Record Company:

UNITED LIVE 6 – LOOK TO YOU
HILLSONG AUSTRALIA

Song Title:

WHAT THE WORLD WILL
NEVER TAKE

Theme:

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY



Out Of Control

Create a list of present-day events or activities that appear to be "out of control."

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

What I Bring/What Christ Brings

As you watch the video, listen closely to the words and write down what you hear them saying about what we bring to our lives and what Christ brings to our lives.

In God We Put Our Trust

As you read through **Psalm 62**, complete the following statements by listing the evidence contained in this chapter. Show the verse that substantiates your answer.

How the Psalmist confesses dependence on God...

EVIDENCE	VERSE(S)

How the Psalmist expresses trust and hope...

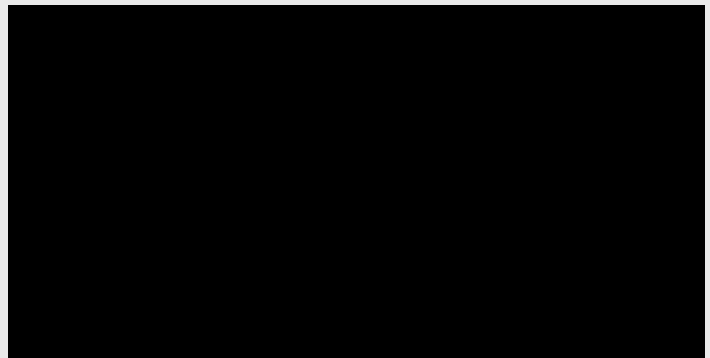
EVIDENCE	VERSE(S)

How the Psalmist explains that this is possible...

EVIDENCE	VERSE(S)

HOUSE OF HEROES

Artist:	Album Title & Record Company:	Song Title:	Study by:
HOUSE OF HEROES THEHOUSEOFHEROES.COM	HOUSE OF HEROES GOTEE RECORDS	SERIAL SLEEPERS	KEVIN WILLIAMS FIRST NAZARENE CHURCH BARTLESVILLE OKLAHOMA REVKEVINJODY@SBCGLOBAL.NET



Theme

Zeal

Objective

This session will remind your young people that they need to stay in the light and to wake up. **Ephesians 5:13-14** says, *“But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: ‘Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’”*

Set Up

Whose Room Are We In? — As you notice from the band’s video, there is a guy going to sleep in his bedroom. Have some fun with a camcorder or digital camera, get pictures/movies of various bedrooms of your students — while they are out! (With the parents’ permission, of course.) Show the pics/vids to your group and play a quick game of “Whose Room Are We In?” Just make certain that you are being tasteful and don’t show things you shouldn’t show to everyone. Never embarrass any students!

Warm Up

Play a little “get to know each other better” game: either pass out a prepared list of students, or break into groups and have them quickly write down all the names of the kids in attendance. Then, without looking of course, have them write down what color eyes each student has. Reward the student who has the most correct answers.

Transition

Ask about bedtime rituals when your students were children. Who usually tucked you in at night — your father, your mother, or both? What else happened before bed, a prayer or devotional? Did you sleep with a stuffed animal? A real animal? Did you listen to music to go to sleep? (Christian music, right?!) How about a nightlight? What time did you usually get up?

The Video

Say, “The band **House of Heroes** has a new video called ‘Serial Sleepers.’ Let’s watch it.” Show the video.

Bible Study

Have a volunteer read **Ephesians 5:1-20**. Say, “Sleeping in the light is unusual — we sleep in darkness. And we are more than physical beings — we are spiritual. We need to stay in ‘the light’ to keep from spiritually sleeping.”

- Paul says in verse 9 that light produces fruit. Plants need light to survive, but especially to produce fruit. If you are in spiritual darkness, then your life will never produce fruit.
- In verse 10 Paul said that we should find out what pleases the Lord. Light pleases the Lord. Think about all the times you hang out with friends — is there light? We fellowship in the light, don’t we? We were created for fellowship, and fellowship happens in the light. Light pleases the Lord.
- In verse 11 we discover that light exposes. Paul says we should have nothing to do with deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. Expose in a Christ-like way. The time will come when we will be in the presence of the light and all will be exposed. Until then, we must bring the light into the darkened world.

- Finally, in the NASB version verse 13 reads, “...everything that becomes visible is light.” Everything that becomes visible is light. Everything. Christ is light. There is safety, comfort, peace, assurance, security and confidence in light. What is in the dark frightens us. Christ provides safety, comfort, peace ... get the idea? Without Christ we can be frightened and lonely.

Closing

If you can change the color of your room with lighting, change it to blue for the closing. Say, “In the song we heard from House of Heroes, ‘*sleep with the light on / and keep the loneliness away.*’ We don’t normally sleep with a light on (except in school!) But remember, Christ is light, and without Him there is darkness. Sincerely evaluate your life — are you sleeping spiritually? Even when you turn a physical light out, is the light of Christ still burning bright through you? Remember verse 9: are you producing fruits of goodness, righteousness and truth?”

Provide candles for each student and close with students praying as they light each other’s candle.

HOUSE OF HEROES

Artist:

HOUSE OF HEROES
THEHOUSEOFHEROES.COM

Album Title & Record Company:

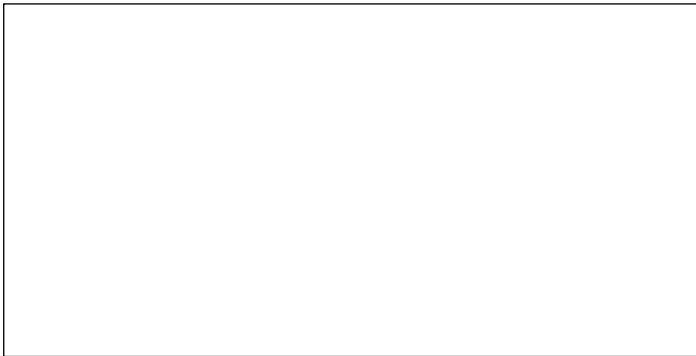
HOUSE OF HEROES
GOTEE RECORDS

Song Title:

SERIAL SLEEPERS

Theme:

ZEAL



Ephesians 5:1-20

Light _____
The _____.

Light _____.

Light Produces _____.

_____ That Becomes _____
Is Light.

Artist:	Album Title & Record Company:	Song Title:	Study by:
JOHN REUBEN JOHNREUBEN.COM	THE BOY VS. THE CYNIC GOTEE RECORDS	NUISANCE	ERIC CHARNQUIST INTERLINC FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE ECHARNQUIST@INTERLINC-ONLINE.COM



Theme

Life; Purpose/ Meaning

Objective

To help students understand that God is working in their lives and they fit into His bigger picture.

Warm Up

Give each student a piece to a jigsaw puzzle. The objective is to have the students find someone with a companion puzzle piece. Don't let them see the box cover or image of the finished puzzle. Put on some pumping tunes from your latest Youth Leaders Only box. Give the students five minutes to find their companion piece.

The Video

Get the students together and play the Reuben video. Have the group talk about how putting the puzzles together went and the challenge of not knowing what the final picture should look like. Ask them if knowing what the picture looked like would have been helpful.

Bible Study

Say, "Joseph had an image of what his puzzle was going to look like (read **Genesis 37: 6**). He dreamt about the future – a glimpse at a final picture. His brothers hated him before that dream and hated him even more afterward. Let's pick up his story after his brothers sold him into slavery. (Read **Genesis 39:1-6**.) Joseph was successful and found favor with his boss – so much so that Potiphar put him in charge of everything. With Joseph in charge, Potiphar didn't concern himself with anything but what he ate. That means Joseph took care of everything. I'm sure there were things that Joseph didn't enjoy doing (cleaning toilets, balancing the checkbook, etc.) but he did them and did them well. Do you think Joseph wanted to be in there? Do you think he ever questioned what was happening to him and why he was in there?"

"Then Potiphar's wife made a move on Joseph and he escaped – to prison. (Read **Genesis 39:21-23**.) Sound familiar? The Lord was with him and granted him favor – again. This time the warden of the prison who put Joseph in charge wasn't concerned with anything that Joseph (a prisoner) was in charge of. Joseph was in prison for at least two years (**Genesis 41:1**). TWO YEARS! That's a long time. Do you think Joseph wanted to be in prison? Do you think he ever questioned what was happening to him and why he was in there?"

"Because he was faithful to God and put Him first, (read **Genesis 41:41-43**) God put him in charge of EGYPT!"

"Joseph dealt with events that were out of his control by taking care of what was in his control. He went from favored son to slave, to prisoner, to being in charge of a whole country (and a big one at that), to being reunited and reconciled with his family. I can't help but wonder what went through Joseph's mind. If it were me I would be thinking, 'You've got to be kidding me?!' or, 'What now?' or even, 'WHY, God!'"

The Bible gives us a glimpse of how Joseph put his puzzle together:

- Joseph obeyed his dad even though he knew his brothers hated him. (**Genesis 37:13-15**)

- Joseph obeyed God even though he could have gotten away with sinning. (**Genesis 39:9**)
- Joseph put God first and gave Him all the credit. (**Genesis 41:16**)

Say, "The key to this story is how Joseph reconciled with his brothers. After all he endured, he finally realized the big picture. In **Genesis 45:5-8**, Joseph acknowledged that it was God who wanted him to become a slave so that he could become king of Egypt and save his family and countless lives. He saw the big picture, and his place in it."

So What

Hand out the Student Guides and have the students write down their answers to the questions.

Wrap Up

Say, "We get so wrapped up in what we have going on that we lose sight of the bigger picture – and we lose sight of God. We get so focused on our one little piece of the puzzle, or get so frustrated by trying to make it fit somewhere, that we lose trust in God. And overlook the fact that He may want to use us to brighten up the world around us with the light of His love. Joseph got that. Do you?"

JOHN REUBEN

Artist:

JOHN REUBEN
JOHNREUBEN.COM

Album Title & Record Company:

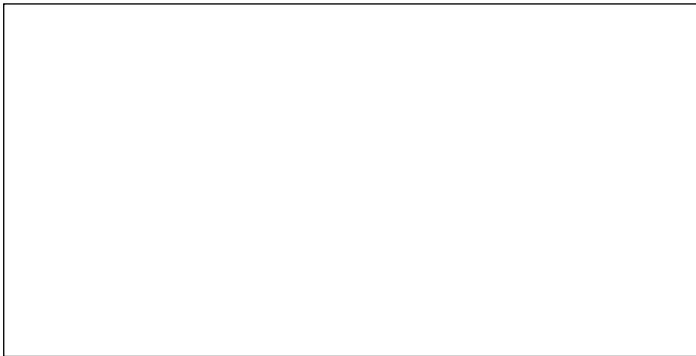
THE BOY VS. THE CYNIC
GOTEE RECORDS

Song Title:

NUISANCE

Theme:

LIFE; PURPOSE/MEANING



Do you think God cares about what is happening in your life?

Do you find yourself focused intently, like our friends in the video, on things without a bigger picture in mind?

What are you so focused on in your daily tasks that distract you from the bigger picture?

Are you putting God first?

If so, what?

What are you going through now that doesn't seem to make sense as to why you have to go through it?

Do you believe that there's a bigger picture, a bigger scene that God wants to use your current experiences in? What might that be?

MERCYME

Artist:

MERCY ME
MERCYME.ORG

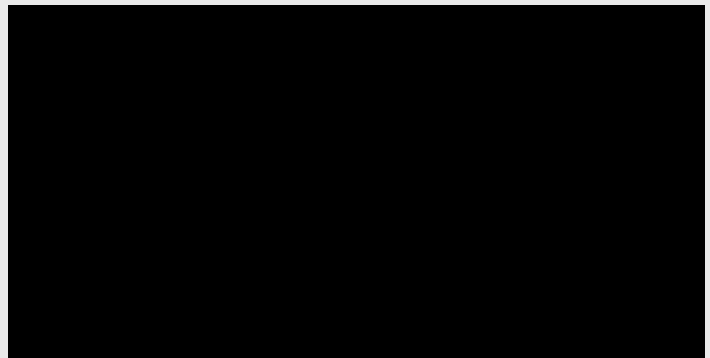
Album Title & Record Company:

MERCY ME LIVE DVD
INO RECORDS

Song Title:

HOMESICK

Study by:

JEREMY WHITE
WESTSIDE CHURCH
REDDING, CALIFORNIA
THEREACH@JUNO.COM

Theme

Eternity

Objective

By the end of this session, students will have a deeper grasp of what the Bible says about the afterlife.

Warm Up

Start out by playing the game “*Murder in the Dark*.” This game requires the lights being out and preferably a room or several rooms where students can spread out. Students each receive a 3x5 card. They must not show their card to anyone. Explain that the cards will be blank except for the one card (or 2 – 3 if you have a very large group) with the word “Killer.” The person(s) who gets this card will be the only one who knows who the killer is. The lights are turned out and the killer walks around tagging people who are now “dead” upon being tagged. The “dead” people sit on the floor. The game is over when there is one person (except for the “Killer”) left standing. He or she is the winner. Give a squirt gun away as a prize.

Transition

Share a time when you encountered something mysterious or difficult to figure out – maybe a story about exploring in a cave, or getting lost in an unfamiliar place, or experiencing something for the first time and not knowing what to expect. Be honest about your fears during the situation. Then ask students if they have any similar stories to share (or have students selected in advance, if that works better for you). After a few minutes of group storytelling, explain that during this session you will be exploring a subject that makes some feel a little bit “in the dark” – life beyond the grave.

The Video

Hand out the Student Guides and say, “Most people think about what will happen after they die. Facing the reality of death is one of the few experiences that every human being has in common, no matter what era or culture we live in. While God doesn’t reveal everything to us about the afterlife, He does make many things very clear. In **John 14:1-6**, Jesus comforted His disciples by telling them that He was about to die and leave them behind for a while. These verses illustrate the fact that Jesus doesn’t want His followers to be fearful of death. The worship band MercyMe recently wrote a song about

the afterlife during a time when several people close to them had died unexpectedly. The song is called ‘Homesick’ and the lyrics reflect the kind of eager anticipation that Jesus wanted His followers to have with regard to the afterlife.” Play the video.

Transition

Ask students to share what concepts, lyrics or scenes in the song’s video that really hit home for them. These follow-up questions are included on the *Thinking It Through* segment of the Student Guide.

Bible Study

Explain that in the book of Revelation John received numerous glimpses of Heaven itself. John saw what he called the “Holy City, the new Jerusalem” coming down from Heaven after Christ returned to earth. (While this writer personally adheres to a pre-millennial view of eschatology, feel free to refer to your own eschatological convictions concerning the Second Coming). Read **Revelation 21:1-8** together as a group, and ask the students to make mental note of some of the language descriptive of the Heavenly environment. After reading, walk the students through the *By the Book* portion of their Student Guide, or have students break into small groups and discuss the ques-

tions. Be sure to have adult leaders mingle from group to group to make sure the students stay on track.

Conclusion

Say, “As American Christians, we may talk a lot about Heaven, but rarely do we feel homesick about it. This may be because most of our lives are padded with so many comforts that we don’t long for Heaven the way many in the early Church did. Even the poorest Americans live large in comparison to the rest of the world. Think about where we place our priorities. Do the things we spend our time, talents and treasures pursuing reflect an attitude of longing for Heaven? Or do we hoard and lust for all we can as though we can make our earthly existence seem as heavenly as possible? Here’s a challenge: let’s go on a ‘fast’ – for a week we should do without something we really love in order to pay more attention to God.” Discuss that challenge, and then close in prayer.

MERCYME

Artist:

MERCY ME
MERCYME.ORG

Album Title & Record Company:

MERCY ME LIVE DVD
INO RECORDS

Song Title:

HOMESICK

Theme:

ETERNITY



Thinking It Through

How often have you thought about Heaven or Hell?

When you honestly look at most Christians in our culture, do you get the sense that very many of them are homesick for Heaven? Why or why not?

In **Philippians 1:21**, Paul says, "*To live is Christ, and to die is gain.*" Expand on that in your own words:

Can you love the life you have on earth while keeping a homesick perspective about Heaven?

Where have you received most of your information about the afterlife?

By The Book

Read **Revelation 21:1-8** and discuss the following thoughts and questions as a group:

In the passage, how is the environment of Heaven different from the environment you live in now? How is it similar?

What are the differences between grieving over the loss of a Christian and grieving over someone who did not have a relationship with Christ?

What material things distract your attention from an eternal perspective?

The song indicates that the author lives in such anticipation of Heaven that he actually feels homesick. Do you ever remember feeling homesick? Describe the circumstance and how you felt at the time.

When you think about Heaven and the afterlife, what doubts or questions do you struggle with most?

Conclusion

Can you honestly say that you ever feel homesick for Heaven?

Are you willing to fast from (give up) one of those things for an entire week, replacing the time you spend enjoying whatever it is for time spent seeking God? (Things you could fast from include a source of your favorite entertainment, a type of food, a consuming relationship, etc.).

Artist:

RELIENT K
RELIENTK.COM

Album Title & Record Company:

MMHMM
GOTEE RECORDS

Song Title:

BE MY ESCAPE

Study by:

JEFF SLACK
THE CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL
GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA
JEFFSLACK@CRYSTALCATHEDRAL.ORG

Theme

God's Protection/Provision

Objective

By the end of this session students will understand that God protects them from the "blessings" of the world to provide far greater heavenly blessings.

Warm Up

Play "*Capture The Flag*," but with a slight twist. Set up the game in the traditional manner, but each side has 2 or 3 safe-squares ("sanctuaries"). When students are in a sanctuary, the other team cannot tag or capture them. Also have a "jail" that they can be tagged out of by their own teammates. Have 4 or 5 flags per team instead of 1 per team; this makes the game a little bit longer and requires a different strategy. The team that captures all the opponents' flags wins.

Transition

Say, "Whether we understand it or not, our life with God is a lot like that game. We experience many challenges, much like the flags we are trying to capture. There is an enemy who wants to make us his prisoner – that would be Satan. We have a friend who has come to free us from the enemy's bondage – that would be Jesus."

The Video

Say, "As we watch this video from **Relient K**, try to pick up on the struggle that the band is wrestling through. Note how they keep coming back to Christ as their escape from life's struggles." Play the video.

Transition

Hand out the Student Guides and ask your students about what they had observed in the video. Using presentation software or printed pictures, show shots of a ghetto-looking house and a wealthy mansion. Ask your students to brainstorm what type of furnishings would be in one house compared to the other. Afterwards, ask which house they would rather live in and explain why. Also, ask your students to share which house they would feel safer in and why.

Bible Study

Divide your students into four groups. Assign each group to look up one of the following sets of verses and have them report back to the entire group what the main idea of their verses are.

- **Romans 7:23** and **Galatians 3:22**
(*Sin holds us prisoner in our lives*)
- **Psalm 34:17** and **Psalm 40:17**
(*God is our great deliverer*)
- **Psalm 62:5** and **Isaiah 40:31**
(*Our hope comes from Him*)
- **Psalm 18:2** and **Psalm 71:3**
(*The Lord is our fortress*)

Wrap Up

Say, "Living life outside of Jesus is a lot like living in that ghetto house. We think our needs are met, but we are settling for something far less than God intended. When our lives are committed to Christ, He not only takes us out of the spiritual ghetto, but He also brings us to His paradise mansion. This is not to say we end up going through life with blinders on, oblivious to all that is bad and wrong in the world; but our joy is complete and correct, and we are protected from having the bad stuff rob us from the way God intended us to live."

Closing

Have two students read the following verses: **Psalm 127:1**; **John 14:1-2**. Say, "We get two choices on how we will live our lives: in a ghetto house that we help build, or in a mansion that God has built. Which do you choose?" Close in prayer.

Student Guide

RELIENT K

Artist: RELIENT K
RELIENTK.COM

Album Title & Record Company: MMHMM
GOTEE RECORDS

Song Title: BE MY ESCAPE

Theme: GOD'S PROTECTION/PROVISION



Ghetto House vs. Mansion

List what you would expect to find.

	Furniture	Food	Electronics	Amenities
Ghetto House				
Mansion				

Look It Up

Romans 7:23 and **Galatians 3:22**
Psalm 34:17 and **Psalm 40:17**
Psalm 62:5 and **Isaiah 40:31**
Psalm 18:2 and **Psalm 71:3**

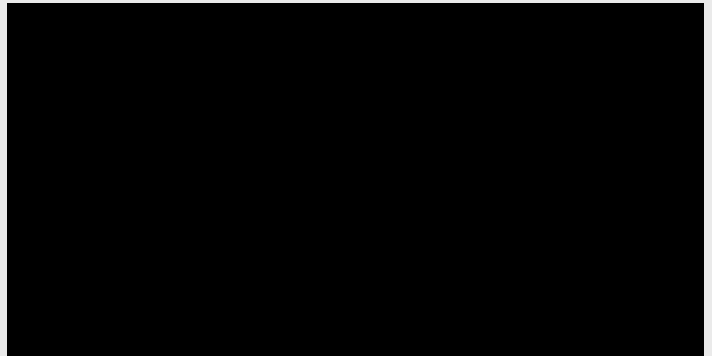
What is life like living outside of Jesus Christ?

What do these verses say about how we live our lives?

Psalm 127:1

John 14:1-2

Artist:	Album Title & Record Company:	Song Title:	Study by:
SUBSEVEN SUBSEVENMUSIC.COM	FREE TO CONQUER FLICKER RECORDS	FREE TO CONQUER	CASSIE BUMGARNER INTERLINC FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE CBUMGARNER@INTERLINC-ONLINE.COM



Theme

Change

Objective

Your students will discover that through the change Christ can make in them they can live an abundant and meaningful life.

Warm Up

Create your own rendition of “Extreme Makeover” with one of your youth, or a leader. Except your version will take place in a matter of minutes instead of a long period of time. Present the person to the group and have him or her play along by discussing things he or she would like to change about his or her appearance. Then take the person out of the room and dress him or her up by using new clothing, make-up, accessories, etc. Make sure he or she is overdone and ridiculous looking. Present him or her to the group again, and then talk about the transformation.

Transition

Say, “Our model wanted to make an outward change and we did a pretty good job of doing that. Now we’re going to watch a video by Subseven. Think about the type of change that is being made in the lives of the characters.”

The Video

Show the video.

Transition

Say, “The characters in the video were seeking things of the world to add meaning to their lives. Let’s see what the Bible says about how we can be changed by Christ and find true meaning in our lives that will add the ‘color’ we are missing.”

Bible Study

Hand out the Student Guides and read **2 Corinthians 5:14-17** aloud as a group; then discuss these issues:

Living For Ourselves Vs. Living For Christ

- What Christ did for us to change our lives.
- How our lives are changed by Christ.
- How we let the world change our point of view on the meaning of our lives. (Is this good or bad?)
- What has Christ done in our life personally to make a change?

Life Before Christ Vs. Life With Christ

- How does knowing Christ give meaning to your life?

Transition

Go through the Student Guide. Ask the students to write the changes God has made in their lives beside of the colors listed. Under the Extreme Makeover My Edition section, challenge the students to list the changes they still need to make in their own lives, in order to be a better reflection of Christ.

Wrap Up

Say, “Just like the characters in the video when we find new life in Christ, He changes us, makes us a new creation, and gives our lives meaning.” Close in prayer.

Student Guide

SUBSEVEN

Artist:

SUBSEVEN
SUBSEVENMUSIC.COM

Album Title & Record Company:

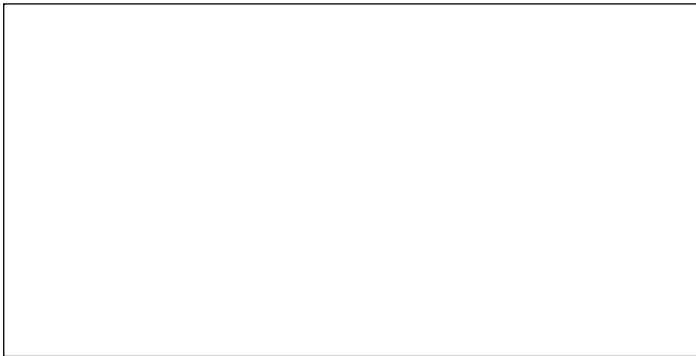
FREE TO CONQUER
FLICKER RECORDS

Song Title:

FREE TO CONQUER

Theme:

CHANGE



Colorful Change

For each of the colors list a change that Christ has made in you.

Red-

Blue-

Green-

Yellow-

Orange-

Purple-

Pink-

Brown-

Black-

White-

Extreme Makeover My Edition

Artist:

TOBYMAC
TOBYMAC.COM

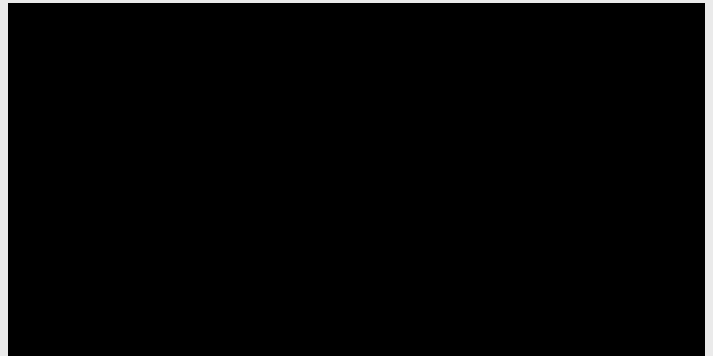
Album Title & Record Company:

WELCOME TO DIVERSE CITY
FOREFRONT RECORDS

Song Title:

GONE

Study by:

KEN MCCOY
JUMPSTART MINISTRIES
ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA
KENNYMAC@MAC.COM

Theme

Integrity

Objective

This session will encourage your students to become more oriented toward others by looking to serve each other rather than by using each other for personal gain.

Warm Up

Play Two Faced – Have some fun with your digital camera. Take a bunch of face shots of kids in your group a week or two before this meeting. Print out three or four letter-sized copies of each photo. When your meeting starts, divide the group into three or four teams and give each team a copy of each photo, a pair of scissors and some tape. Tell the teams that they are to construct several “two-faced” people from the photos they have, and that you’ll award prizes for the most-believable constructions. Teams can use as many different parts of two photos as they want to assemble their faces – the faces don’t have to be mere half-and-half combinations. Once everyone’s shown his or her creation, give away a prize to everyone: DoubleMint™ gum!

Transition

Discuss these kinds of questions:

- How can you tell if someone is “two-faced”? People adjust how they act depending on whom they’re with – that’s normal behavior. Where’s the line between that kind of adjusting and being “two-faced”? Why would someone attempt to be “two-faced”? What’s the reward for such risky behavior?

The Video

Hand out the Student Guides and say, “A new album by **tobyMac** has a song that takes some of these issues a little further. As you watch the video, you’ll note progressive changes in the video. See if you can figure out what the changes are and what they mean. Also, pay attention to anything that might symbolize being “two-faced.” Play the video.

Transition

Generate some discussion about this video with these questions:

- What progressive changes did you notice? (*Toby and the band changed clothes; the video went from mostly black-and-white to color; etc.*) What do you think is the significance of those things? What is the key issue in this song? Describe the girl’s view.

Describe the guy’s perspective. What do you think God “opened her eyes” to see?

Bible Study

Begin your teaching when all students have a Bible and a Student Guide to take notes on. Use this outline as a starting point to prepare your lesson.

1. *Those who fake it, forfeit it. (Romans 12:9)* – This verse gives us a clue to this subject and situation. Since God commands us to make our love sincere, then insincere love must be a possibility, and a problem. Discuss:

- How is insincere love shown? Why would someone fake love? Notice the second sentence in this verse. How is insincere love “evil”?

2. *Those who take it, lose it. (Philippians 2:3-4)* – Most of us naturally have a “me first” mindset. But God’s way of living is the opposite. Laying aside our own desires and serving each other is the only way to have what we really want. Discuss:

- What does “selfish ambition” or “vain conceit” mean to you? Are you supposed to completely forget about your own needs? How then do you make sense of verse 4? Give some examples of your experiences when someone has treated you as more important than him- or her- self.

3. *Those who make it, find it. (James 1:2-5)* – Even those of us who have sincere love and humility will experience pain and disappointment. As the song says, God will “*make a way through the pain.*” Those who make it through discover that their experience has given them strength, the ability to persevere, and wisdom. Discuss:

- How does experiencing difficulty test your faith? What is the progression seen in verses 3 through 5? [*Faith - Perseverance - Maturity - Wisdom*] What examples of that progression have you experienced? We tend to think of “wisdom” as a state to be attained, but the Bible views it as a skill to be learned. How can someone learn to be wise?

Wrap Up

Say, “The song and passages we’ve studied are clear that if we don’t learn from our experiences, we are doomed to repeat them. And, by being sincere in our relationships, putting the needs of others in front of our own, and learning from the painful experiences we encounter, we can become mature and complete people.” Have your students fill in the “*So What?*” table on the bottom of their Student Guide – maybe play the song again as they write – and then close in prayer.

Student Guide

TOBYMAC

Artist:

TOBYMAC
TOBYMAC.COM

Album Title & Record Company:

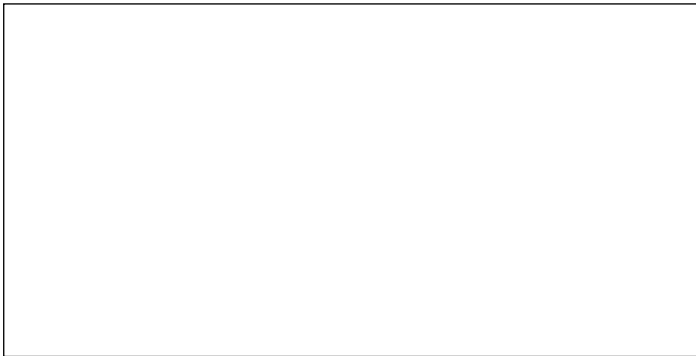
WELCOME TO DIVERSE CITY
FOREFRONT RECORDS

Song Title:

GONE

Theme:

INTEGRITY



Bible Study

Those who _____ it, _____ it. (Romans 12:9)

Those who _____ it, _____ it. (Philippians 2:3-4)

Those who _____ it, _____ it. (James 1:2-5)

So What?

Prayerfully fill out this table with your action plan for putting the truth of the Bible into practice.

	Sincere Love	Humility	Mature and Complete
Who?			
What?			
When?			

GRADUATION

Artist / Ministry & Project Information:

Video Title:

Producer:

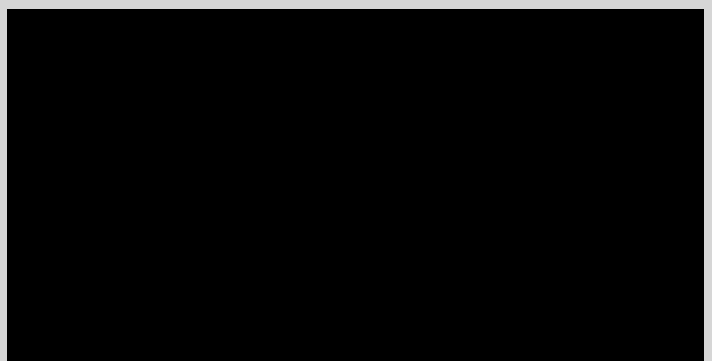
Study by:

CONGRADULATIONS! CLASS
OF 2005
GRAD2005.COM

33 DAYS OF DIRECTION

INTERLÍNC

KEN MCCOY
JUMPSTART MINISTRIES
ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA
KENNYMAC@MAC.COM



Theme

Graduation

Objective

This session initiates the “**33 Days Of Direction**” program for graduating seniors. The purpose of **33 Days Of Direction** is to challenge seniors to develop the habit of devotion and quiet time with God. Check out grad2005.com for more information.

Warm Up

Play *Every Time I...* – Sit your grads in a circle, and explain that you’ll start a sentence with the words, “Every time I...” and then add an action. The person sitting next to you must complete the sentence truthfully. For instance, you might say, “Every time I put toothpaste on my toothbrush...” and the person next to you could finish with, “...I use my left hand to squeeze the tube.” Then that person starts the sentence again (with a different action), and the next person in the circle finishes the sentence. Go completely around the circle at least once so everyone has a chance to participate in this fun little game about habits.

Transition

Generate some discussion about habits and daily activities using these kinds of questions:

- What makes an action that you do often a “habit”?
- How long do you have to repeat an action before it becomes a habit?
- What kinds of daily activities do you do that haven’t turned into habits?
- If you wanted to form a new habit or routine, what would you do?

Bible Study

Have three students read aloud **Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16 and John 17:1**. Then talk through these questions:

- What routine or habit do you notice in these verses?
- Read through **Mark 1:21-34**. What kind of day did Jesus have?
- What kind of response do you usually have after a day like that?
- So why would Jesus get up before the sun?

Read **Luke 5:15-16** and describe the kinds of stress Jesus had to handle.

- What correlation is there between verse 15 and verse 16?

Take a look at **John 16** and **17** and describe the situation that Jesus faced.

- How do you tend to handle impending trouble?
- What do you learn from these Scriptures about the importance of a quiet time and prayer habit?

Transition

Explain the **33 Days Of Direction** challenge. Say, “Included on the *ConGRADulations!* CD, and continued on the grad2005.com website, is a collection of devotionals called **33 Days Of Direction**. Three different youth ministers have written short devotionals around each of the eleven songs on the GRAD CD. Your *ConGRADulations!* CD is much more than a collection of music and videos, it is also an encouragement to continue walking with God as you make this important transition in your life. The **33 Days Of Direction** program will have you reading your Bible, considering the insights of the three youth ministers who have written the devotionals, and listening to the best in Christian music – DAILY! My hope is that we will form a new, and godly, habit during the next 33 days.”

Video¹

Hand out the Student Guides and point out the DAY ONE section – the first devotional in the 33 Days program has been reproduced there. Say, “Along the way on your **33 Days Of Direction**, you’ll encounter video encouragement from some of the musicians on the GRAD CD. How cool is that?! Let’s take a look at one of those videos to get an idea of what they’re like.” Show the **tobyMac** video, and then look through the devotional on the Student Guide.

Video²

If you have time, show the **Audio Adrenaline** video, and point out the DAY NINE devotional on the Student Guide.

Wrap Up

Have a sign-up sheet ready, and pass it around so that your seniors can indicate that they’ll participate in the **33 Days** adventure. Get their names, email addresses and phone numbers – and then plan on creating a new habit of your own: calling at least one of them each day and checking on their progress. Plan a “34th Day” celebration to come back together and talk about the great things God did during the “**33 Days Of Direction!**”

GRADUATION

Artist / Ministry & Project Information:	Video Title:	Producer:	Theme:
CONGRADULATIONS! CLASS OF 2005 GRAD2005.COM	33 DAYS OF DIRECTION	INTERLÍNC	GRADUATION



DAY ONE with Share The Road

tobyMac's "Hey Now (Class of 2005 Remix)"

Think about how much you have to trust the other drivers on the road as you drive. Whether you're on a crowded multi-lane freeway or a two-lane country road, you depend on the other drivers to do their part to keep everyone safe. You expect the other drivers to use their turn indicators, to follow the rules, and to drive in such a way that they – and you – are kept safe. Driving is definitely a community activity!

Most of the traffic signs on the road are designed to encourage safety through cooperation. Think about it. "Speed Limit" signs are posted for safety reasons. A "Lane Ends, Merge Left" sign is definitely a situation that requires cooperation. "Do Not Pass," "Yield," "Road Narrows" and "No Stopping" are all indicators that cooperation is needed.

While you listen to the **tobyMac** song, read these verses from the Bible: **Romans 12:4-6; Romans 15:5-7; Ephesians 4:2-6; 1 Thessalonians 5:11**. Here are some thoughts to ponder:

Notice that the **Romans 12** passage states that each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of His body. When we try to go it alone, we experience frustration and disappointment. However, when we live and function within a community, we find "meaning" in our lives.

More than one voice is needed to make a choir. Understanding how important others are to us, we will go out of our way to welcome, encourage and serve each other.

We need to travel on the same road and in the same direction. That means doing what Ephesians 4 says: acts of love and mending fences. We should let the concept of unity permeate everything we are, think and do.

Write out the names of three people who are an important part of the class of '05 - and the write one way you can show your appreciation for them.

Write out the names of three people in your class who are difficult for you to appreciate - and then write one way you can show your approval of them.

DAY NINE with Offroad Vehicles

Audio Adrenaline's "Dirty"

Consider the Range Rover and the Rolls-Royce. Both are the best cars that England makes, but they fulfill very different purposes. You'd be miserable driving your Rolls-Royce on the logging trails of the Pacific Northwest, but the Range Rover would make the trip fun! Similarly, the Range Rover would be too noisy and bouncy for a nice night out or a trip across the country - two things that the Rolls excels in doing.

Too often, graduates focus on living a "Rolls-Royce" lifestyle. They choose their school, major, career, spouse, house, vacation, etc. with one over-riding consideration: will this help me become successful, comfortable, admired and content? By pursuing mere comfort and convenience, graduates can find themselves on the wrong road, in the wrong vehicle, going in the wrong direction.

Christians are destined to be "off road" people. We are happiest when dirty. We thrive when serving others. Life's meaning and purpose is found in giving away our lives in service to others, not in achieving success or the best possessions.

As you listen to "Dirty" by Audio Adrenaline, read **Matthew 20:25-27, 2 Corinthians 8:9** and **Galatians 6:10**, then answer the questions:

When do you tend to be reluctant to serve someone else?

Who has been a good model of servanthood to you?

What attitudes did they have that make them stand out as a servant?

What did you see them do that made you appreciate their servant heart?

As you head into your future, what can you do to make sure you're going in the right direction as a servant of God?

Artist / Ministry & Project Information:

Video Title:

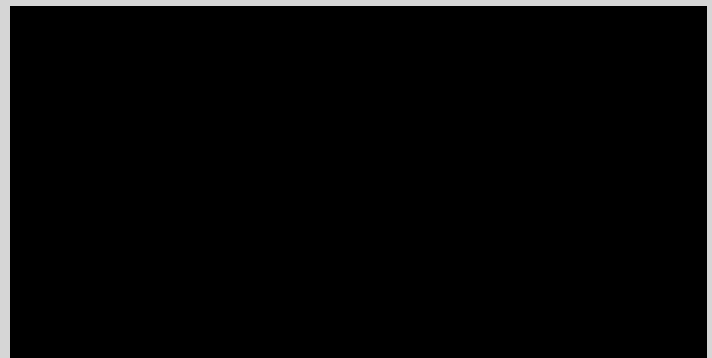
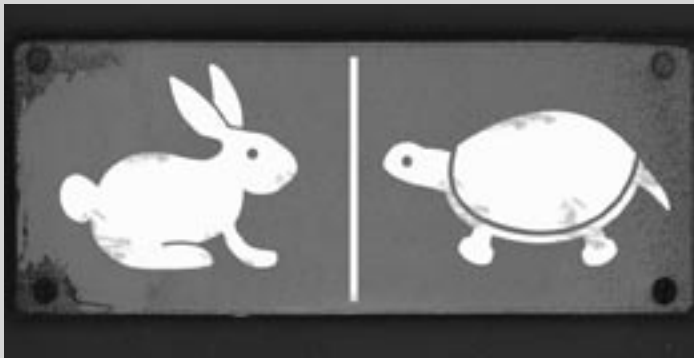
Producer:

Study by:

THE AFTERS
THEAFTERS.COM

A BEAUTIFUL LOVE

SONY BMG/EPIC

MARY HUEBNER
OAK GROVE CHURCH OF GOD
TAMPA, FLORIDA
MBAKER6179@AOL.COM

Theme

Romantic Love

Objective

Your students will have a chance to critically think about a song in the mainstream market. They will ask themselves if they have lost their first love.

Introduction

interlinc's mission and passion is to link the resources of the Christian music industry with the needs of your ministry. We understand the importance of what your students put into their lives and we understand the battle that is waged every day for their attention. It is my concern as a parent of teenage boys, as a teacher of middle school and college age students, and as a fellow traveler on this journey of faith is that we equip our children/students to be critical thinkers when they are "in the world and not of it." Every once in a while a band on a secular label comes out with music that is very teachable and faith-based because the members of the band themselves are Christians. That is true of the band **The Afters** and their album, *I Wish We All Could Win*.

Warm Up

If You Love Me – Someone chosen to be "It" goes up to someone else and says, "If you love me, honey, smile." The second person replies, "I love you, honey, but I just can't smile." However, if he or she smiles while responding, that person becomes "It." "It" cannot touch the other person but can do whatever he or she can to get the other person to smile, within reason.

Transition

Pass out the Student Guides and say, "As we watch the video, your assignment is easy: try to count how many times the word 'smile' is used. Also watch for your favorite smile in the video and notice if there is someone who does not smile."

The Video

Play the video. Have your students share their answers to the questions under The Video section of their Student Guides.

Discuss

- Why are "smiles" so infectious?
- What other lines give you a clue about how he feels about this girl?
- Have you ever been in love? Have you had your best friend say that he or she was in love?
- Do you remember your first "love"? What was your cell phone bill when you were first in love? How many minutes did you use? What did you talk about? Did you leave the phone on even when you weren't talking?
- How many "IMs" an hour did the two of you send?
- Did you love their smile? What did you do to make them smile?

Bible Study

Have students read **Revelation 2:2-3** aloud in several versions – and make sure one of the versions is *The Message* paraphrase. Then discuss the questions on your Student Guides.

Have your students read on to the next verses, **Revelation 2:4-5**. Then discuss the questions on your Student Guides.

Read **Matthew 5:14** and **John 8:12**. Then discuss the questions on your Student Guides.

Read **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**. Discuss the questions on your Student Guides.

Wrap Up

Bring in a bag of peanuts in the shell, some popping corn (you may want to have some popped popcorn waiting in the wings for your students) and some smiley face stickers. Give everyone a handful of un-popped popping corn and tell the kids that they can eat it. When they refuse, ask, "Why not? What needs to happen first?"

Pass out some peanuts. Ask, "What has to happen before you eat the peanuts?" (Yes, you may get the individual, like my husband or youngest son, who actually likes to eat peanuts shell and all; however, most of us shell them first.) Say, "We must get the first things first in life. We must keep our first love, God, our First Love."

Pass out the smiley stickers. Have the students take one home with them to put somewhere that they will see it all week. Ask:

- What will you do to make God your first love this week?
- What will you do to make God smile this week?

Ask the students to come back next week with stories of how they made their first love, God, smile.

LOVE; ROMANTIC

Artist / Ministry & Project Information:

Video Title:

Producer:

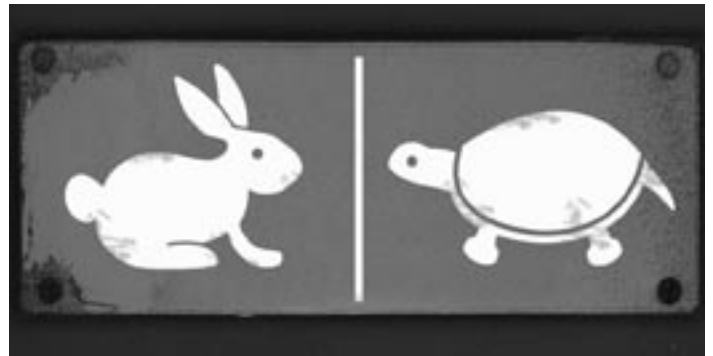
Theme:

THE AFTERS
THEAFTERS.COM

A BEAUTIFUL LOVE

SONY BMG/EPIC

LOVE; ROMANTIC



The Video

“Smiles” usage:

Favorite Smile:

Lines that serve as clues of love:

Revelation 2:2-3

From the verses we have just read, what is your opinion of the church at Ephesus?

Do you think they were a “good” church?

Revelation 2:4-5

What was the problem?

What do you think John means by “You have forsaken your first love”?

Who should be the object of this “first love”?

Matthew 5:14; John 8:12

What is the significance of telling the folks at Ephesus that if they didn't repent and return to their first love, doing the things they did at first, that their lampstand would be removed?

If they were doing all those good things why would their light go out?

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

What's the status of your “first love”? Have you lost it? Have you gotten so busy that you don't have time for God?

Do you go out of your way to make God smile?

Do you know what makes God smile?

Peanuts and Popcorn: First Things First

What will I do to make God my first love this week?

What will I do to make God smile this week?

MISSIONS

Artist / Ministry & Project Information: Video Title:

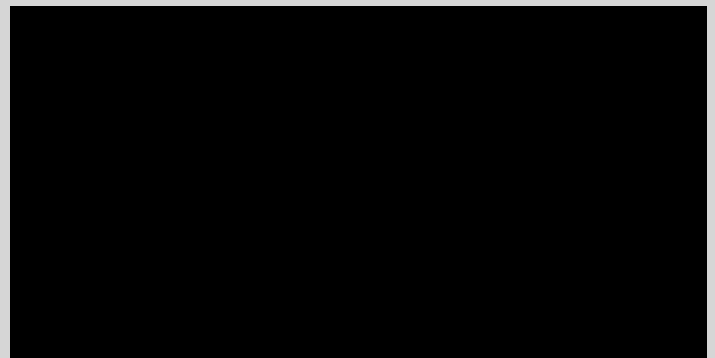
DAMAH FILM FESTIVAL
DAMAH.COM

AMAZING

Producer:

ERIC LEE

Study by:

DAVE WEISS
NEW CREATION FELLOWSHIP
READING, PENNSYLVANIA
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Theme

Missions

Objective

Your students will be challenged to see the many needs in the world.

Warm Up

Get a large pack of plastic cups and have your students compete to see who can build the tallest tower in a minute or two. (You may need to do “heats” if your group is large.) Give a prize to the winning group/student with the tallest tower, such as a bag of candy or something that could be shared. Take note to see if the winners “share the wealth” or keep it to themselves.

Transition

Comment on how the winning students treated what they had been given. Did they see the “need” around them and share the wealth or did they keep it to themselves?

The Video

Hand out the Student Guides and introduce the video by saying something like, “We’re going to watch a short film titled ‘Amazing’ that was entered into the **Damah Film Festival** this year. As you watch, write down on your Student Guide the significant elements of the film that you notice.” Since the video is only four minutes long, you may want to view it more than once to let the group really get the point.

Transition

Discuss your students’ answers as a group. Start the video one last time and pause it at the different elements. Here are the elements as I see them – feel free to draw your own conclusions and be open to what your students see:

- *Man on the bench*: The man appears to be very introspective. He is letting the world pass him by. He looks deep in thought and appears to be missing what’s going on around him.
- *Droplets*: The first one hits him unnoticed. The second gets his attention. The third one hits him right between the eyes.
- *Droplets hit his eyes*: They change color and you get the idea that he is transformed. He is shaken from his slumber, and he can see what is going on all around him.
- *He runs*: He appears scared or overwhelmed perhaps because he can now see the world as more than just how it affects him.
- *He flies*: The suffering he sees in the world around him brings a tear to his eyes. The tear becomes the droplet that causes someone else to move.
- *“Elevate”*: This repeated word is a call to rise above self and get involved in the world.

Bible Study

Read **Matthew 25:31-40** aloud as a group. For more impact have the group read the passage dramatically – one person reads the king’s part, one person reads the narration and one person reads the part of the sheep. Discuss the questions on the Student Guide on a large flip chart so that you can write notes to use in the Wrap Up.

Wrap Up

Read **James 4:17** to your group. Ask, “With this challenge from James, what can you do with the needs you have just noted? Maybe we should begin an endeavor called ‘Project Elevate’ with the emphasis on making a difference in at least one of the areas listed.” Ask for ideas. Conclude by challenging your students to “elevate” in their homes, schools and communities.

MISSIONS

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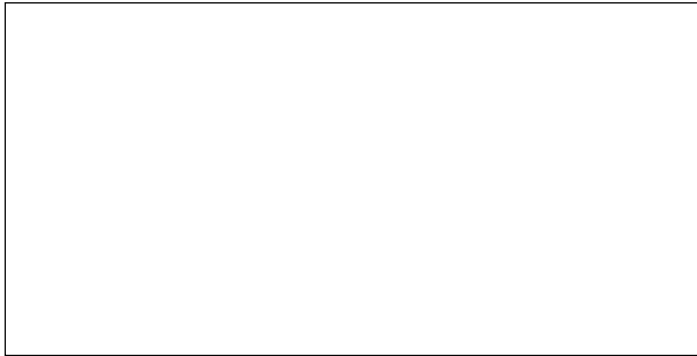
Theme:

DAMAH FILM FESTIVAL
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AMAZING

ERIC LEE

MISSIONS



The Video

As you watch the video, try to figure out the meaning of the following:

Man on the bench

Droplets

Droplets hit his eyes

He runs

He flies

"Elevate"

Matthew 25:31-40

How is this passage a call to "elevate"?

How open are your eyes to the suffering in the world around you?

What are the needs in your school?

What are the needs in your community?

What are the needs in your church?

What are the needs in your home?

How can you as an individual or your group elevate?

James 4:17

What can you do with the needs you have just noted?

Elevate!

THE WORLD

Artist / Ministry & Project Information:

Video Title:

Producer:

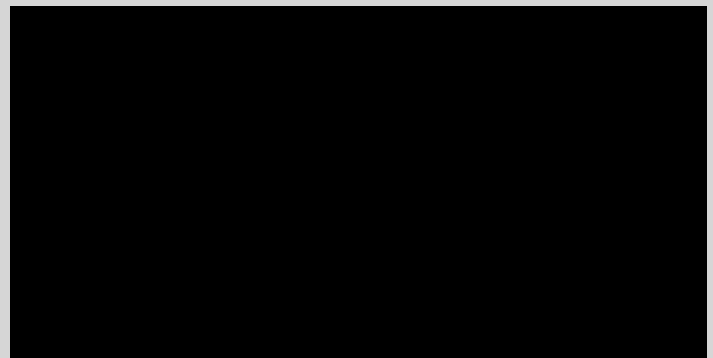
Study by:

FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH
FEATURING SUBSEVEN
FELLOWSHIPNASHVILLE.ORG

THE PLIGHT OF SUDAN

SCOTT MOORE

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Theme

The World

Objective

This lesson will increase your students' awareness of the current persecution of Christian believers and various people groups in Sudan. This time will also challenge them to think compassionately for the world.

Warm Up

Instead of playing a game, allow the students extra time at the beginning of your program to hang out and connect. Then call your students together and go over your ministry announcements. Do something a little funny with your announcements since the rest of the evening will be pretty heavy. If you have a band, have them play a light acoustic set that will help your group focus.

The Video

Say, "We are going to focus on a very serious subject about a country we don't often hear of, Sudan. In the past two decades the Sudanese have been suffering as extreme terrorist groups, possibly even funded by Sudan's government, strive to wipe out peoples in certain areas. They do this because of religious differences and to make way for incoming oil companies. Sudanese

constitute the world's largest displaced persons populations, with 4.5 million people having been driven from their homes. According to the UN, the government of Sudan is the only one in the world engaged in slavery. We are going to discuss what is going on in this part of the world and what can we do to combat this human tragedy. First, we are going to watch a video which will give some faces and facts to what we will be discussing." Play the video.

Bible Study

Use the compiled list of facts on the Student Guide to inform your students on the plight of the Sudanese people. Since this subject is serious and there is a lot of information, pick and choose what you might convey to your group. Consider breaking the content up by having different leaders speak on these different areas. Also, use technology by putting some of these facts and faces of Sudanese people (off the internet) on slides to show as you teach. Additional resources: freedomhouse.org/religion/sudan (Center for Religious Freedom); alarm-inc.org (A.L.A.R.M)

Sudan's Plight

Read through the issues with your students on the Student Guide.

USA's Response

- The Bush Administration has made Sudan a priority for foreign aid.
- The US started an investigation into charges that the Arab Islamic group, Janjaweed, was responsible for mass murders, rapes and burnings in several mainly non-Arab villages of western Sudan. Colin Powell stated, "The evidence leads us to the conclusions that genocide has occurred..." World governments rarely use the word "genocide."
- The US is providing 80% of the humanitarian aid to keep Darfur's 2 million refugees alive.
- On June 5th 2004, the Bush Administration oversaw a peace agreement between the north and south to end a 20-year rebellion for religious freedom in which two million Christians have perished in southern Sudan.

Christians' Response

How does the Bible instruct us to react to people in need? Have several students prepared to stand and read these verses: **Deuteronomy 15:4-5; Deuteronomy 15:7-8;**

Deuteronomy 15:10-11; Luke 14:12-14; James 2:14-17. Then challenge your students to respond with the following action points:

- Educate yourself on this plight and similar issues of persecution around the world.
- Pray for these people.
- Give and Go. Give generously. Go if you have an opportunity to serve in countries like this.
- Call others to action. Share what you know about this. People want to help; they need to be called to action – as was seen in the global response to the 2004 Tsunami.
- Write to your government officials.

Closing

Provide blank paper, pens, envelopes and sample letters for your students to write a personal letter. To download sample letters go to: <http://freedom-house.org/religion/what/letters/htm>. Encourage your students to put the letter in their "own words." And make sure they write their return address on the envelope so the person receiving it can see that it's a personal letter. As the students write their letters, play a CD or a live praise song. Have the students give their completed letter to you to mail later. Close in prayer for the Sudanese people.

THE WORLD

Artist / Ministry & Project Information:

Video Title:

Producer:

Theme:

FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH
FEATURING SUBSEVEN
FELLOWSHIPNASHVILLE.ORG

THE PLIGHT OF SUDAN

SCOTT MOORE

THE WORLD



Major Issues in Sudan:

Two main issues: a mass effort to convert the Sudanese people to Islam; the government's attempt to push certain people groups out of their homelands to make way for incoming foreign oil companies.

Because of economic instability, the Sudanese government began "courting" foreign oil companies to bring income. There are three companies currently pursuing investments in Sudan: Chinese government's China National Petroleum Corporation, Talisman Energy Inc, of Canada, and Malaysia's Pertonas. US companies are not allowed to invest because of anti-terrorist sanctions; however, these foreign companies are allowed to raise funds in the US market through the Stock Exchange.

Islamic groups have forced conversions, bombed religious buildings and persecuted Christian leaders.

Thousands of women and children in southern Sudan have been taken north as concubines and slave laborers.

The Sudanese government has stopped foreign food aid to specific groups and allowed 2.6 million south Sudanese to experience famine in 1998. Of these people, 10,000 died of hunger.

More than 70,000 people have been killed in a two-year conflict around Darfur, and two million have fled their homes.

What Can I Do?

Deuteronomy 15:4-5

Educate yourself on this and similar issues of persecution around the world.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

Pray for these people.

Deuteronomy 15:10-11

Give and Go. Give generously. Go if you have an opportunity to serve in countries like this.

Luke 14:12-14

Call others to action. Share what you know about this. People want to help; they need to be called to action – as was seen in the global response to the 2004 Tsunami.

James 2:14-17

Write to your government officials. <http://freedomhouse.org/religion/what/letters/htm>.