

MVL 49
Summer 2005

LOVE; ROMANTIC

Artist / Ministry & Project Information:

Video Title:

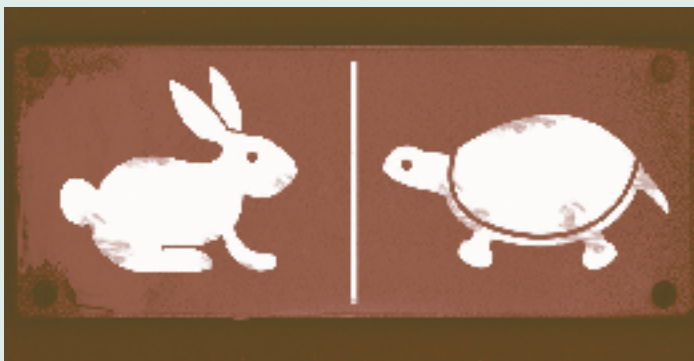
Producer:

Study by:

THE AFTERS
THEAFTERS.COM

A BEAUTIFUL LOVE

SONY BMG/EPIC

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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.

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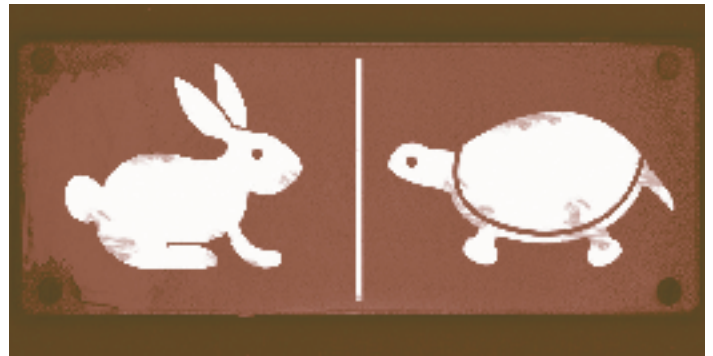
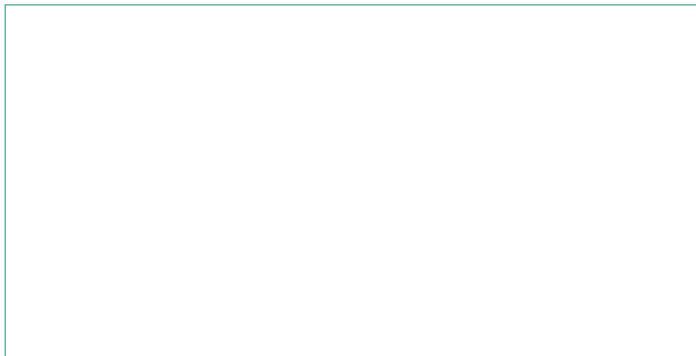
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The Video

“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?