

MVL 49
Summer 2005

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

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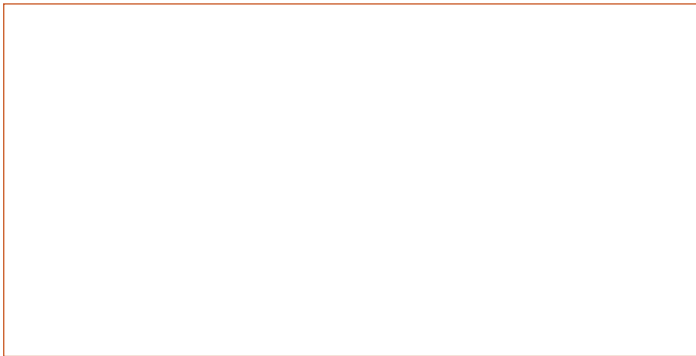
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GONE

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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? | | | |