



Audio Disc: #17



Visual Disc: #12

Artist: Gateway Worship
Album: Wake Up the World

Theme:
Courage -
Stand and Fight

Devotional 20 WAKE UP THE WORLD

GATEWAY WORSHIP

1 Start Up

Divide your students up into groups of four or five. Give each group a little-known product, or at least one they may not be familiar with. Some examples could be a Brillo pad, a copy of Popular Mechanics, a tea strainer, etc. The contest is to see which team can put on the best commercial and be most persuasive in their delivery. The commercials should be no longer than 90 seconds in length, but should involve all members of the group, even if some of them are only background characters. Give each team about five minutes of preparation time. For added fun, have the real prices and uses of the items on a page and read it after the commercial. Competing students will be delighted to know that the previous commercial tried to sell a Brillo pad at \$14...quite an inflated price!

2 Get Focused

After you're finished with the commercials, begin a discussion about truth versus persuasion. Talk about the TV and radio ads which entice and tease but do not necessarily tell the truth. Contrast this to the sometimes unpleasant but necessary task of telling the truth of

the Gospel. People may not like what they hear at first, but they may come to realize that truth is the most important part of your witness. Play the "Wake Up the World" video for the group and segue it into a discussion of the scripture below.

Mark 8:34-38 (The Message//Remix)

"Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, 'Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for?'"

- 1) Does Jesus mean when he says that, in order to come after Him, a person must "take up his cross"? If He isn't being literal, what might "the cross" symbolize in each of our lives? Is it different for each of us?
- 2) What does Jesus mean when he talks about saving and losing our lives? Again, is this literal or representative of something else? What does it look like on a practical level when someone chooses to "lose his life" for Christ?
- 3) How might a person get everything they want, but lose their real self? (You might tie in the commercial game you played earlier to this verse, emphasizing our overly materialistic society and its pitfalls.)
- 4) In what ways might we unknowingly demonstrate that we are ashamed of the gospel and of Jesus?

3 Wind Down

To conclude the meeting, have your students look up the word "witness" in the dictionary and, together as a group, go over its various definitions. Which of those definitions most closely resembles what God's Word is talking about when it says that we, as believers, are witnesses to the world? Discuss with your students what being a witness might look like on a daily basis. In what ways is being a witness about what we say? In what ways is it about what we do or don't do? What, in fact, have we "witnessed" as believers that we want to share with others? Are we anxious to do so? Why or why not? Encourage them to be honest about their concerns related to witnessing. How might we keep ourselves in a continual place of "experiencing God" so as to remain a constant witness to His deeds? Why might this be important? Pray with your students that they would be encouraged to spend time hearing from God in order to take in fresh insights and reminders of His love for them on a continual basis.