



Audio Disc: #1



Visual Disc: #1

Artist: Casting Crowns
Album: The Altar and the Door

Theme:
Determination -
Stand Your Ground

Devotional

1 SLOW FADE CASTING CROWNS

Start Up

To begin your meeting, have one student sit on the floor while the rest of the group sits in a large circle at an equal distance around him or her. Give one of the students in the circle a large ball of yarn. That person will start by saying something positive about one of the others in the group, preferably someone on the opposite side of the circle. (The person in the center does nothing.) While holding onto the end piece of yarn, they will then toss the ball of yarn to the person they just spoke about, creating a connecting string between them. The person who now has the ball of yarn will pick someone else in the group, say something nice about him or her, and repeat the process until there is a large web of yarn connecting the group members together, consequently trapping the person in the center. Continue constructing the web until the yarn runs out.

2 Get Focused

After the exercise, ask the students how they feel. Were they surprised to hear some of the nice things others had to say about them? Why or why not? Ask the person in the center how they felt during the exercise. Did their mood change as the game went on? How so? Now ask the group how the mood might have

changed if, instead of saying positive things about one another, they had said negative or hurtful things. Using the illustration of the web surrounding the person in the center, discuss with them the importance of the influences we allow into our lives and how they form a strong web around us, either good or bad. Use this idea to explain how our surrounding influences, when negative, slowly entrap us over time. When finished with the discussion, play the song, "Slow Fade," for the group.

2 Samuel 11:1-27

- 1) We must turn away from temptation the moment it appears. (v. 2)
- 2) Our sin always has a consequence. (v. 5)
- 3) Sin breeds more sin. (v. 6-15)

Proverbs 4:23

- 1) Guarding our heart is a deliberate and intentional action on our part.
- 2) Garbage in, garbage out.

3 Wind Down

As you conclude, ask your students what kinds of temptations they face in their lives and write them down on a piece of paper. Discuss the ways in which certain behaviors can lead us into places of temptation, and how specific sinful actions can have immediate and/or long-term consequences. Using the list of temptations you have compiled, challenge your students to come up with ways in which they can actively guard their hearts against these negative behaviors. Remind them of the web they created earlier and encourage them to find ways of building positive "webs" around themselves through the choices they make.