



Audio Disc: #4



Visual Disc: #4

Artist: Tenth Avenue North  
Album: Over and Underneath

Theme:  
Dependence -  
The Need for God

Devotional

# 5 LOVE IS HERE

## TENTH AVENUE NORTH

### 1 Start Up

To begin your meeting, divide your students into two or three teams and then have the members of each team divide into pairs. In this relay race between teams, each pair will run with their hands behind their backs. One member carries a teaspoon in his mouth. At the far end of the room is a line marked on the floor, and on each line lies a single piece of Smartie candy. The pair of runners arriving here, kneel one on each side of the line and the Smartie must be pushed into the waiting spoon by the nose of the partner. Once the Smartie is in the spoon, the pair should run back to the starting point so the next pair can repeat these steps. Should the Smartie be dropped during the return, both must kneel and pick it up in the same fashion. The team whose members finish first wins.

### 2 Get Focused

After the game, have your students recite John 3:16 aloud as a group. (Use the most commonly cited translation: "For God so loved the world...") Next, handing each couple a piece of paper and a pencil, instruct them to take a few minutes to write out the verse in the most ordinary

language possible—in a way that makes the most sense to them. (For instance, one couple may write, "God loved the world so much that he decided to give...") When they're finished, have each couple read their versions aloud.

After everyone is finished, read John 3:16-18 aloud from The Message//Remix. As a group, dig deep into each line and its meaning. Why does God love us so much? Can we even answer that question? According to The Message//Remix, why exactly did God send His son? What must it have been like for Him to send His son away to be sacrificed for a world that had already rejected Him? Near the end of your discussion, play the "Love is Here" video.

#### Isaiah 61:1-7, 10-11

God sent Jesus to:

- 1) Bring good news.
- 2) Announce freedom.
- 3) Pardon all prisoners.
- 4) Announce His grace.
- 5) Comfort the hurting.
- 6) Care for the needy.
- 7) Bring joy.

### 3 Wind Down

Look back over Isaiah 61 with your students. Ask them if the things Jesus came to bring to the world are evident in our own lives. Do we see salvation as REALLY good news (v. 10)? Why or why not? (Spend some quality time on this subject in particular. If what God did is so awesome, why does it not feel all that awesome sometimes? What sort of things can we do to remind ourselves what exactly we've been saved from? In what ways can we be inspired by the actions of Jesus to do the same thing in our own circles?)

In reference to the game they played earlier, you might tie in the idea that we, as humans, were in a race and Jesus chose to run alongside us in order to help us finish. Without His intervention, we would have been lost forever. Using the outline above, end your meeting with a reminder of all that Jesus came to do for us.