



Audio Disc: #5

Artist: Casting Crowns
Album: The Altar and the Door

Theme:
Dependence -
The Need for God

Devotional

6 EAST TO WEST CASTING CROWNS

1 Start Up

Divide your students into two teams. Fill a large tub full of Jell-O, and on the bottom of the tub, dump a few handfuls of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarter and three or four Matchbox cars. Blow a whistle to start and the two teams must take off their shoes and socks, race to the tub, and use one foot only to pull out as many objects as they can. Allow each student 20 seconds to grab an item. You may want to add other things like dice, a rubber ball, or a ring, as they may be easier to pick up. You can assign varying points to the different items depending on the level of difficulty in picking them up.

2 Get Focused

After everyone has cleaned up, hand out lyric sheets for your students to read while you play the song, "East to West." Take a few minutes to discuss the meaning of the song and allow your students to express their inter-

pretation of it. Have them pick out specific lines that are meaningful to them and are able to be demonstrated pictorially. Give them some paper and markers and allow them 10 or 15 minutes to draw what these lyrics look like to them. For instance, one or two students may decide to draw a picture of someone "drowning in a sea of forgetfulness," while others may choose to depict, "you've washed me white, turned my darkness into light." When they are done, have each person present his or her picture to the group, explaining what is significant about it. If possible, post these pictures up on the wall of your meeting place for everyone to view in the coming weeks.

Psalm 103:6-18

Using an overhead projector or a large sketch pad, draw a line down the center of one page. On the top-left side of the page, write "What God Does," and on the top-right, "What God Doesn't Do." Next, read over Psalm 103:6-18 with your students. Have them pick out the actions of God in these verses that correspond to your chart, and write them down accordingly under each heading.

3 Wind Down

To conclude your meeting, spend a little time discussing the struggles that your students face on a daily basis when it comes to sin, and how, according to your scripture chart, God addresses those struggles. Next, have each person write down something that he or she struggled with in the previous week on a tiny piece of paper. Placing a metal bucket on the far end of the room, ask them each to walk over one by one and place their piece of paper inside. When everyone is finished, take the bucket outside and safely burn the paper inside it. While it's burning, lead your group in a prayer of thankfulness to God that he has removed our sin from us, and that because of His work on the cross, the price has been paid!