

# You Need This!

by Jeremy Patterson

## FAITH FOCUS:

Do Christians need to be naively accept every new technology that comes out on the market? At what point do we say, "All this buying of the newest product is just plain bad stewardship"? We let the media tell us what our needs are and that's not very Biblical. We need to recognize that our lives aren't contingent on having the newest, most expensive technology on the market. We need to recognize the false gospel being spoken to us through advertisements and the media.

## SESSION GOAL:

Students will learn that the world and its luxuries are vying for their love, affection and allegiance.

## SESSION OBJECTIVES:

Students will learn that one of the most important aspects of being a Christian is knowing who and what is competing for their attention. They will see that things are not always as they appear and messages they believe are there to help them maybe actually be hurting them.

## MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- 1 Pencils and small slips of paper for everyone.
- 2 A large refrigerator box with a hole cut in it to look like a TV.
- 3 Bibles for every student.
- 4 Tell students prior to the session to bring their favorite technological possessions with them or be prepared to tell about them.
- 5 A dry erase board or newsprint and marker
- 6 Bible concordances

## SESSION OUTLINE

### FOCUS

Ask each of the students to go through the personal belongings they brought with them. Have them pull out cell phones, iPods, CDs. Give each person an opportunity to tell you about the

newest thing they've purchased or received as a gift. (Be sensitive to those who may not be as financially well-to-do as others. Use the popcorn method of sharing rather than going around the circle.)

Have each person take a slip of paper and a pencil. Instruct them to write down something they really want to buy. Tell them to make a note of where they saw the item. (On a TV commercial, in a store, a friend had one, etc.)

## CONNECT

Divide the class into groups, and ask each group to come up with a TV commercial selling something that the typical teen really "must have." They will need to perform the skit inside the "TV" (refrigerator box.) You may want to rig some sheets up on the sides of the TV to give the actors some room to get ready and perform. People who aren't in the skit being performed are the TV watchers. Encourage students to be creative and silly as they sell beauty products, cars, soda, electronics, clothes, cell phones, etc. They can use the things they brought to the session as props.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Bring the group together after the skits have been performed. Write the following statement on the board or newsprint:

*When we listen to the messages of ads, we are being taught not to follow Jesus and to buy into myths about what makes us happy.*

Discuss: Do students believe that statement is true? Why or why not? What are examples of why it is or isn't true? How did the ads they created serve as examples of it being true or not true?

Divide into small groups and give each group a concordance and a Bible to each student. Ask them to locate scripture passages that explain how Jesus would want us to respond to the ads we see and hear.

Share the passages with the whole group and discuss them together

## APPLY AND RESPOND

*Say: None of us need everything we purchase at the mall or off the internet. What we do need to do is to learn how to discern where our treasure is—and that is in the Kingdom of God. The world teaches us to accumulate everything we can—the one with the most toys wins. But Jesus teaches us to stay clear of that teaching and remember what our true treasure is.*

Ask each student to look at what they wrote on their piece of paper. Instruct them that there will be a time of prayer where they can pray about pursuing this item. Give them time to listen to what God is saying to them about their motives and their needs during the prayer.

Invite youth to share their thoughts after the time of prayer. This is not a time for students to be made to feel guilty or to be forced into doing something they don't want to—it is a time to reflect on if or what God might be saying to them.