

# the rip out

music **u2**



**SONG:** “Magnificent” (from *No Line on the Horizon*)  
**TOPIC:** Worship  
**THEME:** The singer can’t help but sing a song of praise to his creator.  
**BACKGROUND:** Inevitably, each new U2 album is compared to the classics *The Joshua Tree* and *Achtung Baby*. But 30 years in, the boys from Dublin don’t have anything to prove. The album’s measured, sometimes *quiet*, pace—with the exception of the out-of-place “Get Your Boots On”—shows a band at peace with itself. Lyrically they’ve never been stronger. Bono is in full-on worship mode in “Magnificent” and “Moment of Surrender.” “White As Snow” is a powerful song from the viewpoint of a soldier.  
**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** Why are we on the Earth? How would the singer answer that question? What does worship mean to you? Do you ever feel like you’re “going through the motions” during worship? Why or why not? Read aloud John 4: 22-24. What does Jesus mean? Does worship have to involve singing? How can you worship God when you’re not at church?

music **fm static**



**SONG:** “Dear God” (from *Dear Diary*)  
**TOPIC:** God  
**THEME:** The singer is sharing his heart with God.  
**BACKGROUND:** FM Static’s third album is a solid effort, filled with catchy pop-punk music and heartfelt lyrics. This concept album follows the diary entries of a teenage boy’s journey of life, love, and faith—the testosterone answer to Taylor Swift’s latest album. “The Voyage of Beliefs” examines the faith you’ve always followed because your family does, then learning how to own it. “Take Me As I Am” is about accepting our need for God. This album pleasantly surprised me.  
**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** If you could write God a letter, what would you ask or tell him? Is that any different than praying? Explain. Would you view God differently if you “looked closer instead of searching so hard”? Explain. Read aloud James 4:6-10. What does it mean to “humble yourself before God”? How is prayer a form of humbleness? How do we develop a close relationship with God? What is God’s role? What is our role?

# ministry and media

video **australia** [pg-13]



**TOPIC:** Possessions  
**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 12: 16-23  
**CLIP LOCATION:** 00:12:58 through 00:13:58 (DVD Chapter: 3)  
**SYNOPSIS:** As Drover and Lady Sarah Ashley travel across the Outback, he explains why the simple life is better. Since stuff can be taken away, in the end, “all you really own is your story.”  
**GOSPEL FILTER:** Worrying about our “stuff” is a trap that adults fall into as easily as teenagers. But in the end all we really *do* have is our story. Introduce your teenagers to the author of that story.  
**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** If there was a fire, and you could only save three of your possessions, what would they be, and why? Why do we love “stuff” so much? Is it wrong to like material things? Why or why not? Read aloud Luke 12:16-23. Why does Jesus say the pursuit of possessions is foolish? Is Jesus saying we shouldn’t own things? Explain? How can you know if you’re putting possessions before your relationship with God? What steps could you take to consider God and his Kingdom before the pursuit of possessions?

ministryandmedia.com

Get more biblical discussion starters for pop culture at [ministryandmedia.com](http://ministryandmedia.com). Go there. Take the tour. Sign up.

video **twilight** [pg-13]



**TOPIC:** Loneliness  
**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 2:18  
**CLIP LOCATION:** 01:12:12 through 01:13:48 (DVD Chapter: 15)  
**SYNOPSIS:** Bella and her father follow their routine of eating at the diner. When her father tells her she should “be around people,” she says she doesn’t mind being alone—just like him.  
**GOSPEL FILTER:** People will try to convince us they’re okay being alone...but God created us for community. Teach your kids that in order to live out God’s commission we need to be with other people.  
**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** Do you prefer being alone or in a crowd? Explain. Is it possible to be alone in a crowd? Explain. Do you ever feel lonely? What do you do about that feeling? Read aloud Genesis 2:18. Why do you think God decided it wasn’t good for us to be alone? Why are so many people alone? Can you think of someone in your school who you know is lonely? What makes you think that? What is something tangible you could do this week to make that person feel less lonely?

video **bolt** [pg]



**TOPIC:** Friendship  
**SCRIPTURE:** John 15:12-13  
**CLIP LOCATION:** 01:11:32 through 01:12:56 (DVD Chapter: 13)  
**SYNOPSIS:** Bolt decides to continue his journey to find Penny alone. When Rhino hears this, he decides to follow Bolt anyway, because you “never abandon a friend in a time of need.”  
**GOSPEL FILTER:** A true friend is a treasure worth more than gold. So when a friend is in trouble or need, we need to be there for them. Even when we know it’ll get messy. True love gets messy.  
**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** What makes a good friendship? What makes an unhealthy one? Have you ever had a friend in real trouble? How did you react in that situation? Was it hard to be there for that person? Explain. Have you had ever had a friend really be there when you were in trouble? How did that affect your friendship? Read aloud John 15:12-13. How does a person “lay down his life for his friends”? Are there times you shouldn’t get involved? Explain. What’s something you can start doing to be a better friend?



BY SCOTT FIRESTONE IV

scott, associate editor for **group**, writes our Ministry and Media discussion starters.

favorites

- WARGAME—Bastogne; Screaming Eagles; Under Siege
- BOOKS—*The Prefect*, Alastair Reynolds; *The Risen Empire*, Scott Westerfeld
- WEBSITE—amazon.com/mp3deals

youtube



## Jesus

**TOPIC:** Jesus  
**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** What would you do if you found a tortilla that looked like Jesus? Are these really images of Jesus and Mary? Why or why not? Why make a big deal about seeing these images? Does an image of Jesus have “power”? Why or why not? Read aloud Psalm 139: 7-10. If God is with us, are images important? Why or why not? What might change in your life if you could see God’s physical presence with you?

youtube.com/watch?v=VjGikzydy