MAKE-UP AND ACCESSORIES

Program Target: To help youth reflect on what's being "sold" when society encourages them to wear make-up and accessories.

What to do: Divide your group into smaller groups of 4-6 people each. Provide each group with poster board, glue, scissors, and a wide selection of fashion and teen magazines. Their assignment is to create a collage using images of people wearing make-up, jewellery, tatoos, piercings, etc. The theme for their poster is "What's On Sale?" Explain that most of their images will probably come from advertisements. As they create the collage, they should think about and discuss what kind of self-image is being portrayed through the make-up, accessories, and other fashion items that are being advertised.

After allowing about 20-30 minutes for each group to complete its poster, display the posters around your meeting area and allow some time for everyone to view them. The bring the whole group together for a discussion. Allow about 20-30 minutes for discussion and use the "Discussion Questions" to get your group started:

Discussion Questions:
1. What kinds of images are advertisers trying to "sell" through the use of make-up, jewellery, and other accessories? What type of self-image are they encouraging young people to buy?
2. Is this only a girls' issue, or does it affect guys too?
3. Why do you and/or your friends use make-up, wear jewellery, get tattoos or piercings? What message are you trying to send about yourself? Do different accessories send different messages?
4. The Adventist church has traditionally taught that make-up, jewellery, and other accessories should either not be worn at all or worn very discreetly and in moderation. What do you think this standard is based on? Does it apply today? In your culture?
5. What's the number one image you want people to have when they look at you? What "accessories" do you need to convey this image?

Preparation Time:
Make sure you have the poster-making materials and a wide selection of magazines on hand for the art project. Remember to choose some magazines that have images of males as well as females in them. You may want to get some volunteers from your group to help you collect magazines that reflect the images that appeal to them and their friends.

Bible Text:
1 Timothy 2: 9,10; 1 Peter 3:3,4.

Song Service: "Oh Lord, You're Beautiful"

Vesper or Closing Thought: God is not "hung up" on what we wear or how we decorate ourselves. God *is* concerned with our self-image and the image we project to others. His Word asks for outward simplicity and inward beauty. Challenge youth to think about how that standard applies to their own personal "fashion sense" in the week ahead.