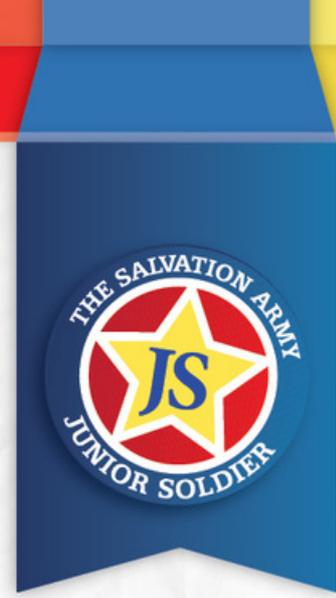


Junior Soldiers

UNIT 13 : LESSON 7



Listening to Music

PURPOSE: For the children to explore music as a way of connecting with God and expressing emotions and to understand how the music that we listen to can impact our mood, thoughts and beliefs.

When you meet together, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, as you praise the Lord with all your heart.

Ephesians 5:19 (CEV)

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Psalm 33:1-5

Ephesians 5:15-20

Music is a wonderful gift from God. Since the very beginning, creation has sung in praise of the Creator. Music allows us to express our deepest emotions and connect with God and others without using words.

Unfortunately, music is also used, at times, to convey messages that are not in line with God's values and purpose.

This lesson seeks to help children to explore music and the ways in which they engage with it. Take time to pray for your Junior Soldiers, asking God to draw close to them throughout this lesson.

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- A range of different types of music and a device to play it on. For example, heavy metal, classical, worship. Consider including any music that is culturally relevant for your group
- For option 2: choose a range of different face emojis and print or draw several sets on separate cards

For 'The Main Thing'

- Optional: Search for a short video of a flash mob and organise equipment to show the clip

For 'Prayer Time'

- Some worship music and a device to play it on

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child

Connecting In

Activity...

Option 1

Play a game of 'freeze'. In this game, the children move to music. When the music pauses, they must freeze. The last person to stop moving is 'out' and they would typically sit down for the remainder of the rounds. To allow everyone to engage, with the different types of music, instead of asking them to sit out, ask them to move to a different side and keep moving there.

For each round, play a different type of music. Ask the children to move in a way that represents how they feel when they hear this type of music.

Option 2

Print a range of different reactive face emojis and give them to the children. Play a number of different types of music. For each one, ask the children to hold up the emoji that best represents the way they feel when they listen to this type of music.

Link...

Music is a wonderful thing. It can help us to express something that we are feeling without words. Music can also help us to worship and connect with God. Ask one of the children to read Psalm 100:1-3.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy.

The Main Thing

I wonder if you consider yourself to be musical?

Activity

Ask the children to sit in a circle.

Take turns around the circle, for each child to make a noise from nature (animal noise, bird noise, wind, water, etc.)

If a child repeats a noise or can't think of one, then they are out.

Link

All of these sounds are part of the music of God's creation. The sounds we make, even if we don't consider ourselves to be very musical, are part of the music of creation, and can be part of our worship and connection with God. Psalm 95:1 tells us that we can make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Music can also help us to connect with others and together we can worship God.

Optional: Video clip

Play a video clip of a flash mob

Activity

When we worship through music, it encourages others to join in. Together, we can join in worship and it becomes even more awesome.

Ask the children to look up and read Ephesians 5:15-20.

Read verses 18-19 again.

Invite the children to share about a time when music was an important or memorable part of worship for them.

Link

Music is a wonderful way for us to worship and connect with God and with others.

Tying In

Ask the children:

- I wonder what type of music you like to listen to. Think for a moment about the music and songs that you c listen to. What songs do you listen to regularly? How do they influence how you feel and what you think about?
- Can you think of a time when you felt connected to God through music?
- Can you think of any music or songs that you listen to that don't line up with God's values?
- How could you use music to connect more with God and others?

(play music during devotions at home, add worship songs to your playlist, join a band etc.)

Memory Verse

Music can also help us to remember Scripture.

If you have time, choose a song that uses Scripture for lyrics and sing it together. For example, 'You were bought' by Colin Buchanan.

Divide the children into small groups. Ask them to choose a tune that they know well and sing the memory verse to that tune. Ask the groups to take turns singing the verse to each other.

Prayer Time

Ask the children to find their own space in the room, get comfortable and relax. Explain that you will be playing some worship music. Invite them to close their eyes if they would like to. Ask them to listen to the music and ask God to speak to them as they listen.

At the end of the song, ask:

- Thinking about the words in the song, what stood out to you?
- How was God speaking to you as you listened to the song?

Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or a notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

Home & Beyond

Music helps us to worship God, to connect with him and to connect with others.

- Choose a tune that you know well (or make up your own)
- Write new words to the tune that express how you are feeling or what you would like to tell God, a friend or

Try this activity again with your Big Bud, a friend or someone in your family.


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