



Date: _____
Series: A-MAZE-IN Life
Summer Year 2, Lesson 6

Music – What Will You Choose?

Take Home Point: *Let God guide your choices in music. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 1 Corinthians 10:23, Psalm 40:3, 1 Samuel 16:23

Key Verse: Ephesians 5:19b; "... Sing and make music to the Lord with your hearts."

We will help kids know:

- Music is the language of the soul that brings great enjoyment.
- Though all musical forms are permissible, the content or the lyrics may fill our minds with messages that are not beneficial to our soul.
- Music is an important means to express our praise and thanksgiving to God.




We will help kids feel:

- Whatever feelings the tone of music sets, will illustrate how it can shape our moods.
- Joy in the gift of music as part of their worship life.

We will help kids do:

- Identify songs they know and what makes them favorite songs.
- Listen to the lyrics or messages of songs to see if they are God pleasing and beneficial.
- Invite Jesus to be part of the audience who is listening to songs they sing to themselves or on the radio.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Students will use a music staff as a tic-tac-toe game grid to recall favorite songs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Tic-Tac-Toe handout per group (<i>p. 10</i>) • black markers • radio for each group
Large Group 	4 6	<p>Overview</p> <p>Attention Grabber: video clip--- <i>Mr. Holland's Opus</i></p> <p>The Keeper of the Clues leads kids on an A-MAZE-IN adventure down a path to encounter God with the music choices they make.</p> <p>Kids learn that music is a powerful media that penetrates the mind and soul. They should be wise in deciding what to let into their "city."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a sports jacket for the Keeper of the Clues with taped paper question marks all over it • Walkman or portable CD player with a set of headphones (part of Keeper of the Clues costume) • <i>Mr. Holland's Opus</i> video Burbank, CA, Buena Vista Home Video, (1996), ISBN # 0788805568 (www.amazon.com) • dry erase board, chalkboard, or newsprint to record scores • paper and pencils • <i>Option:</i> a snack or reward for the group with the best participation during the contests
Small Group Application 	4	Kids search the channels on a radio and listen to various songs. Discussion follows about the lyrics and which songs are beneficial in their Christian life with God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • radio for each group • paper for each student • pencils

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

As kids gather: Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.

Supplies: Music Tic-Tac-Toe, marking pen, radio

Turn on the radio and listen to music as you play the following game.

Music Recall Tic-Tac-Toe

Divide your group into two teams. Teams will take turns putting down marks on the game sheet. Demonstrate how kids should draw quarter notes and half notes instead of Xs and Os. Designate which music note (quarter note or half note) represents each team and tell kids that they will take turns within their teams to make each mark.

The object of the game is to get three notes from the same team in a row, naming a favorite song. But, since there are more spaces to fill, the game continues until the spaces are completely filled. The team with the most sets of three notes wins. The challenge is to not only think about your team's next move on the game board, but, for each mark, players also need to name a favorite song. After the game is over, continue with discussion.

From the songs we've chosen, what are some different styles of music that people like to listen to? (*Rock-n-roll, pop, classic pop, Christian contemporary, country western, etc.*)

How many of you have favorite songs but find that your favorite will change from time to time?

How many of you have ever had a tune playing in your head that is hard to get out of your mind?

Music is a very powerful medium. That's because it's like the language of the soul. It helps change our moods. It is also a very powerful way to communicate messages. Today we want to make choices about the music we listen to and **let God guide our choices in music.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Attention Grabber: video clip--- *Mr. Holland's Opus*

The Keeper of the Clues leads kids on an A-MAZE-IN adventure down a path to encounter God with the music choices they make.

Kids learn that music is a powerful media that penetrates the mind and soul. They should be wise in deciding what to let into their "city."

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

What genre of music does God consider evil? *(It is not the genre or type of music, but the words that can be destructive to our hearts, minds and souls.)*

Give examples of how music is so powerful. *(Advertisers use music to sell their products because music makes it easier to remember. Sometimes it is hard to get a tune out of our minds. Praise and worship is powerful; Satan doesn't like it.)*

What were the three uses of music discussed in large group? *(Worship, enjoyment, and growth.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Have kids read 1 Corinthians 10:23 in their Bibles:

“Someone may say, ‘I’m allowed to do anything,’ but not everything is helpful. I’m allowed to do anything, but not everything encourages growth.”

How can we apply this verse in our choices of music? *(Even though there are a lot of music styles that are enjoyable, we should choose music that is beneficial and god pleasing.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

What criteria can you use to determine if music is beneficial or God pleasing? *(Listen to the words and decide if the subject matter is God pleasing. Does the music leave you feeling uplifted or sad and depressed? Does it encourage destructive or inappropriate behavior?)*

Application Activity:

Supplies: a radio for each group, paper and pencils for writing

Search through the channels on the radio and stop on certain songs to listen to the words. Have kids listen to the words and imagine that they are sitting at the gates of a city (with the idea that the city is their brain). As they listen to the words, they are only allowed to let in the songs that are beneficial in their Christian life with God. Do they skip this song?

Since music is such a powerful medium, we want to emphasize the key verse for today. Ephesians 5:19b says, “... Sing and make music to the Lord with your hearts.”

God delights in us worshiping and praising him in music. Let’s remember to **let God guide our choices in music.*

Closing Prayer:

Offer praise to God for the memorable songs kids are able to recall and share with each other. Ask God to help make positive choices in music selection that only leads them toward a closer relationship with him. Thank God for friends who listen to music with them or participate with them in playing it and ask that these times also be used for God’s glory.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

The Maze In Life...What Will You Choose?

Music

Props needed:

- A sports jacket for the Keeper of the Clues with taped paper question marks all over it
- Walkman or portable CD player with headphones (part of the costume)
- Mr. Holland's Opus video

Supplies:

- dry erase board, chalkboard, or newsprint to record scores
- Option: a snack or reward for the team with the best participation during the contests
- paper and pencils

Introduction

The Keeper of the Clues begins:

Welcome, kids, to the amazing life and all the choices you face. Yes, you know that life can be an A-MAZE-IN adventure. But mazes can be hazardous, as well. Some of your choices may lead you to dead ends and detours. Along the way, as you seek God's direction, you will discover that he is the Maze Master who will lead you on a path to encounter him. As a matter of fact, every day he invites you to make choices that lead you to the destination of meeting his own Son Jesus, who will lead you through the maze of life. Your final destination can be a wonderful life with him forever.

I am the Keeper of the Clues who will give you some clues to help you in your choices throughout the maze. Today we will look at the choices you make in the area of music and videos. To introduce our maze, I would like to show you a video clip from the movie *Mr. Holland's Opus*. The question I want you to think about is: What style of music is evil?

Video Clip as Attention Grabber

Show the video clip from *Mr. Holland's Opus*, Burbank, CA, Buena Vista Home Video, (1996). ISBN # 0788805568.

Start time: 41:15. Start cue: Jean says, "Mr. Holland is teaching rock and roll." End time is 42:45. End cue: Mrs. Jacobs says, "I can tell them that." Total running time 1:30.

The gift of music

What style of music is not acceptable or pleasing to God?

Accept answers.

The correct answer is that all styles are acceptable to him. Some of the different styles include rock and roll, classical, pop, jazz, rap, etc. The style of music is not a problem at all, but a problem can exist in the words that go with it. Music is one of the most powerful gifts God gives to us. It's the language of the soul.

1 Corinthians 10:23 says, "Someone may say, 'I'm allowed to do anything,' but not everything is helpful. I'm allowed to do anything, but not everything encourages growth."

This verse says that many social customs are acceptable. That would include different styles of music. But some of the music may not be helpful. What happens when the message does not give glory to God? We'll talk about that in a minute.

Psalm 40:3 says, "He placed a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see this and worship. They will trust the Lord."

God gives us music to enjoy. But one of the most important things we can do with it is to praise him.

The power of music

We are going to have a contest between the boys and the girls. During the course of three rounds, I will need three volunteers from each team who can think of catchy TV jingles used by advertisers to help us remember their products. Once you think of one, don't tell anyone else what it is, because they might be thinking of their own jingle. Instead of saying it aloud, I'll give you a piece of paper for recording the jingle's words, the company, the product or the service.

We will see if a girl performer can quickly demonstrate to her team of girls by singing or humming with the sound of "da," what jingle she chose and we'll do the same for the boys' team, in turn. The girls' and boys' teams will take turns guessing what words and products match each jingle.

Assign a scorekeeper and play three rounds of the game.

Why do you think advertisers use music to sell their products and services? Music is the language of our soul and helps us to remember messages much longer.

1 Samuel 16:23 says, “*Whenever God’s spirit came to Saul, David took the lyre and strummed a tune. Saul got relief from his terror and felt better, and the evil spirit left him.*”

The use of music

We have learned so far that music is a wonderful and powerful gift from God. It can help us express our moods and even help shape our moods. When words are attached to music, they stay in our thoughts for a long time. But today we’re asking the question, “Is there any kind of music that is bad for us and any kind of music that is good for us?”

1. Worship

Ephesians 5:19b says, “...*Sing and make music to the Lord with your hearts.*”

This verse says that we should make music to God in our hearts. That is why an important part of our worship is singing songs to God.

I need three more people up here who can think of a worship song or hymn they can sing or hum with the sound “da.” We will again see if the boy performer can quickly demonstrate to his team of boys what worship song or hymn he chose and we’ll do the same for the girls, in turn.

Have a similar contest as before, humming hymns or worship songs. If running short of time, play only one or two rounds.

2. Enjoyment

The second use of music is to enjoy it. Does that mean that all music we listen to needs to be Christian or praise music? No, but it should be beneficial. Here’s how we can tell. Picture your brain as a city and your ears are gates to that city. What are you going to let enter through those gates and fill your city? Music is one of those ways that we let messages into our city. Let’s be aware of what we let in.

3. Growth

Again, 1 Corinthians 10:23 says,

“Someone may say, ‘I’m allowed to do anything,’ but not everything is helpful. I’m allowed to do anything, but not everything encourages growth.”

Imagine you are at the city gates letting in messages from songs and Jesus is standing there with you. He is interested in helping you choose those things that are beneficial. Some of the lyrics of the song may encourage you to do things that are not godly. Do you really want to have those thoughts in your mind? What are examples of that? Maybe we can find examples when we listen to the radio in a minute.

Should we only listen to songs that talk about God? Some people may choose their music that way. How do you think Jesus would feel about people who listen to songs that don’t talk about God but talk about other topics of life? Can these kinds of songs be beneficial? Of course, so they are permitted. But if these songs suggest that we behave in a way that is not pleasing to God, then it would not be beneficial and we shouldn’t listen to it.

Option: Read the words to popular songs and take a vote on whether or not that is a song that should be allowed to pass through the gate and let into the city (or our thinking).

Conclusion

We know that Jesus came into this world to restore our relationship with God. We know that he paid the price on the cross for our sins and rose again from the dead. He is alive right now and lives in the heart of anyone who trusts him. For those who do trust him, he wants to lead and guide them so they can have the best life possible.

Music is so powerful and important that Jesus wants to be the one who helps show us what we should let into our lives and what we should keep out. After all, our lives are not our own. Jesus bought us with a great price and we don’t belong to ourselves. We belong to him. We want to glorify him with our minds and our minds are very much affected by the music we listen to.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we want to thank you for Jesus. Thank you for how he gave his life for us. Help us to ****let God guide our choices in music.*** Music is such a wonderful and powerful gift. Help us choose the music that will really benefit us and build us up, and not the kind of music that will tear us down or cause destructive behaviors. Thank you for being our guide every day. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Music Recall Tic Tac Toe



- team 1



- team 2