

Unavoidable. Pervasive. Inescapable. Secular pop music is everywhere. Even if you can get your young Christian friends to switch their listening habits from secular to sacred, they are still going to hear the top popular songs everywhere they go. In this section we provide you some

ideas to take advantage of some of the most popular secular songs. Use the opening questions, the thematic concepts and discussion ideas to spice up your Bible study, Sunday School lesson, camp/retreat meeting or outreach event message.

Artist:

## Bastille

**Song:** Pompeii**Album:** Bad Blood**By:** Sarah Taylor  
sarah\_t@gmail.com**Teaching Point:**

Struggles may come, but Christ has overcome!

**Opening Discussion:**

Do you ever feel as though life is just too much? Ever wish you were elsewhere—just long for escape? Imagine you could be anywhere in the world—where would you want to be?

**Discussion:**

Bastille raises the same theme in the song “Pompeii.” Sometimes life feels as though the walls are crumbling down around you, that the rain is moving in, and there’s no glimpse of the sun on the horizon. The question, “How can I be an optimist about this?” plagues you. You have to wonder if life can and ever will get better.

Scripture doesn’t promise we’ll have a life of ease and pleasure. In fact, it tells us just the opposite. In **John 16:33** Jesus declared, *“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

We can’t assume that being a Christian makes as immune to life’s troubles. There is one thing that being a Christian does bring us, though: a hope for a future brighter than the present. We can feel crushed under the pressure of life, try to escape, or cower in fear. Or, we can face life’s trials with determination and strength. As **Hebrews 12** notes, *“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”*

Take a minute and consider a situation in your life—maybe you’re arguing with a friend, or maybe your family life is in turmoil. How can you use your faith to face those situations head-on?

**Conclusion:**

Life easily feels as if it is too much, that you’re not equipped to handle all that life throws at you. As troubles arise, don’t cower in fear—stand strong in your faith and remember the courage and strength Christ exhibited during His struggle to the cross. Be optimistic in Christ’s conquering act of love!

Artist:

## Daughtry

**Song:** Waiting for Superman**Album:** Baptized**By:** Keith Jones  
life.cvbc@gmail.com**Teaching Point:**

Hope, Salvation

**Opening Question:**

How is Christ the Ultimate Superhero?

**Discussion:**

We all have heroes growing up. Whether it was a comic book hero, a sibling who served in the military, or a simply a parent, there have always been people we have looked up to and wanted to emulate.

However, heroes will eventually let us down; yes, even our parents. They will let us down because they are human. We aren’t perfect, and we fall short. There is one hero that never lets us down. There is one hero who came to save us all. There is one hero who not only conquered death, but also conquered the grave. That hero is Jesus.

People were waiting for a hero. **John 4:1-26** tells the familiar story about Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus, being Jewish, did not discriminate against her simply because she was a Samaritan, for He had come to save all mankind. Jesus offered the woman what no one else could give her. In verses 13-15, Jesus explained that what He offered was living water, so she would never thirst again. We discover that the woman was living in sin. Jesus came to offer atonement to those who choose to drink from His teachings. There was a need in this woman’s life, a need for a hero. In verses 25-26, she explained that she had been waiting for a hero, a Messiah who would be called Christ. Jesus replied, “I am He.” Her hero had arrived!

What do we need to be saved from? What in our lives is tearing us apart? Is it anger or guilt? Is it an addiction or bad relationship? Do we need to be saved from ourselves? Or, are you one of those that recognize your need of a hero, a Savior, to turn away from the past that keeps stalking you? God sent His only son to die on a cross for our sins. He sent a Superhero to be the Savior of all mankind. Will you allow Him to be your Savior?

**Conclusion:**

When the rest of the world has failed you, you still have Christ who will always be by your side. He was the perfect sacrifice, slain to rid us of our sins. It is only through His redemptive blood that we can experience eternal life in heaven with God the Father Almighty. **Acts 4:12** says, *“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* Let Jesus be your Superhero and Savior!

Artist:

## Eminem

**Song:** The Monster (ft. Rihanna)**Album:** The Marshall Mathers LP 2**By:** Dan Schewe  
danjschewe@gmail.com**Teaching point:**

If we’re honest, we know that we are all monsters who need someone to save us.

**Opening Questions:**

What makes a person a good person—what you do or how do you act to be “good”? Who do you think is a good person? Do you think you’re a good person? What kind of person would you describe as a monster, how would they act, what would they do? Who do you think is a monster? Do you think you’re a monster?

**Discussion:**

In this very honest song, Eminem touches on something many of us feel, but are afraid to admit: we are not good people. Many of us, if we are honest, feel that we are monsters.

We like to think that we are good people—we don’t steal things, we don’t kill people, and we don’t abuse others for our own enjoyment. We aren’t one of those “bad” people. We think we are good. This is reinforced by our culture. We are told that anything that doesn’t inconvenience us or hurt us in some way must be good, and anything that does must be bad. Things are black and white, either good or bad, and we are always good.

Yet, operating from this mindset makes good and bad relative terms. Whoever is “good” to you is good, and whoever is “bad” to you is bad or evil. When this is the case, there starts to be no real good or evil, everything is relative to your position, and we define what and who is good and who is bad/evil.

Sadly, we often think this is how God defines good and evil. But, God gives us clear definitions of what is good and what is bad. Often, this is called “The Law” in religious circles. Read **Romans 7:15-25**. Paul writes about something we can all relate to. We know what we are supposed to do, and what we are supposed to avoid, but we know what we do and it’s most often what were not supposed to do. We know there is standard we should live by, and we are not living to that standard. We know what we deserve to get, yet for the sake of Christ it is not what we get.

**Conclusion:**

Eminem is right; each of us is a monster. When we take an honest look at ourselves, we know that we are not good people. We do not love others and God as much as ourselves. Yet, we can be friends with our own monster. Being good with God isn’t up to us. Nothing we can do can save ourselves; we can never be good enough for God to consider us good. But, we have a Savior that came to save us from ourselves. He did what we could not. Because of Him, we are loved by God and pulled back into His embrace like dearly beloved children.