

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:

Ed Sheeran

Song: Shape of You

Album: Shape of You

By: Sarah Taylor, sarah_t@ymail.com

First United Methodist Church – Cynthiana, Kentucky

Theme

Dating; Godly

Teaching Point

Honor God within your dating relationships.

Opening Questions

Have you ever been on a date? What was your first date like? Awkward? Romantic? Fun? Did you see that person again? Are you still dating?

Discussion

Ed Sheeran sings about a first date with a girl, about falling in love with her. It's an exciting time, that first moment when you're learning about each other, what you each like and don't like. It's scary too! You're forced to be somewhat vulnerable so he or she can get to know you too!

Dating has become the primary way to build relationships that ultimately lead toward marriage. Does dating look differently for Christians? Ed Sheeran sings about a girl sharing his bed. TV shows and movies regularly show couples having sex on first dates. As Christians we know that is not the point of dating, right?

Christians are called to live holy lives. According to **Hebrews 13:4**, sex, as a part of that life, is to be saved until marriage. In **1 Corinthians 6:18-20** Paul makes it clear that our bodies are not our own – they belong to God. So how can you honor God in your relationships? How can you honor God with your body?

Conclusion

God created us as emotional beings. It can be hard to ignore those emotions. In **2 Corinthians 6:14** Paul warns believers against relationship with nonbelievers. As you look toward dating, consider the other person. Does he or she hold to the same values as you? Will he or she help you honor God with your body? Will you be able to help him or her honor God?