



## RE:TUNED

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:

**Ariana Grande**

**Song:** 7 Rings

**Album:** thank you, next

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### Themes

Materialism, Money, Satisfaction

### Teaching Point

Money, and the things it can buy, are a poor substitute for the true satisfaction that only comes from a relationship with God.

### Opening Questions

- If you had \$10,000 to spend, what would you do with it?
- Why does the world revolve around money so much?
- Is money a bad or a good thing?
- What do you think the Bible says about money?

### Discussion

The song "7-Rings" and its accompanying video celebrate the unrestrained consumption of multimillionaire status-seekers. Apparently inspired by the day a heartbroken Ariana tipsily purchased herself and six best friends diamond Tiffany rings, the song takes an audacious approach to spending. She confidently declares that her riches are all that she needs to be happy, to put down her competitors, and to even disrespect her ex-fiancé.

However, that interpretation may just be a knee-jerk reaction to the song. Ariana's struggles with mental health are well documented. It could be that the over-the-top materialism she sings about is satirical. There is a chance that this song (which takes its cues from the classic "My Favorite Things" song from *The Sound of Music* about finding joy in small moments and simple objects) is a clever commentary on gratuitous overspending.

Ask for volunteers to read these Scriptures – **1 Timothy 6:10; Ecclesiastes 5:10; Proverbs 15:16; Matthew 6:21; Hebrews 13:5.** Discuss:

- What is the common theme from these verses?
- What about money is a sin?
- How do we conquer our desire to want more money?

### Conclusion

Explain that we don't overcome the love of money by ourselves, but by realizing that God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (**Hebrews 13:5**) Read **Psalms 63:1-15** to your group – emphasize these phrases: "Because Your love is better than life... I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods." If you really want to experience satisfaction, place your faith in God!